SIDE 1 Know what to do during CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

How to Shelter In Place at Home or at School





Go indoors immediately.



Turn off air conditioners and ventilation systems. Close fireplace dampers.



Turn on your TV and radio to get emergency information.



Close and lock doors, windows and vents.

Seal them with plastic sheets and duct tape.

Cover nose and mouth with a cloth if you smell a strong chemical odor.



Stay indoors and wait for instructions. After an "all clear" message, air out your building.

WHAT ARE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?

Chemical weapons are poisonous vapors, aerosols, or solids that are toxic to people, animals and plants. They can be released by bombs, sprayed from the air, or used as a liquid to create a hazard to people and the environment. Some chemical weapons may have no smell or taste. **It is important to know that chemical weapons can be deadly, but very difficult to produce or deliver.**

Biological weapons are organisms or toxins that can kill or injure people, animals, and plants. Three basic groups of biological agents that might be used as weapons are **bacteria**, **viruses**, or **toxins**. These biological agents may be sprayed in the air, water, or onto food.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

If there is a chemical or biological weapon attack near you, authorities will tell you what to do. Turn on the radio or television to hear what authorities instruct you to do. Authorities may tell you to evacuate right away and to take shelter at a specific place. Or, authorities may tell you to stay where you are and seal off the building or room. Staying where you are and sealing the space is called "Sheltering in Place." This activity sheet describes how to Shelter in Place. Remember that if you are told to Shelter in Place, going out of doors may put you in greater danger.

If you think you have come in contact with a chemical or biological substance during an attack, such as breathing fumes or by touching a substance, tell an adult immediately. They will get you medical treatment.

Information source: FEMA for Kids. See www.fema.gov/kids/nse/biological.htm

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM

The Homeland Security Advisory System was designed after 9/11 to provide warnings to the American people about the threat level of a terrorist attack. There are five "threat levels," and each has a specific color. Your federal government and emergency managers have specific actions they take depending on the threat level. The greater the risk of a terrorist attack, the higher the threat level. These are the levels and their color codes:

- **LOW** Low risk of terrorist attack.
- **GUARDED** General risk of terrorist attack.
- **ELEVATED** Significant risk of terrorist attack. The public should be alert to suspicious activity, and report anything suspicious to authorities.
- **HIGH** High risk of terrorist attack. Stay alert and report any suspicious activity to authorities. Officials will take additional precautions at public events and restrict access to specific sites within a city or area.
- **SEVERE** Severe risk of terrorist attack; this is the highest level. Remain alert and report any suspicious activity to authorities. Officials may close public and government buildings, activate special teams, and limit transportation systems. People should avoid public gathering places and listen to news reports.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN HANDLING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Draw a line from the word on the left to the definition that best describes it.

TOXIC	I. Violently bursts when exposed to pressure or heat.
FLAMMABLE	2. Causes soreness or swelling of skin, eyes, mucous membranes or respiratory system.
IRRITANT	3. Can cause injury or death if swallowed, absorbed, or inhaled.
EXPLOSIVE	 A chemical or its vapors that can cause a material or living tissue to be destroyed.
CORROSIVE	5. Easily catches fire and tends to burn rapidly.

Answers: A-3, B-5, C-2, D-1, E-4.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

- 1. Discover what products in your home are hazardous. If you are allowed to use these products, learn how to use them safely and correctly.
- 2. Read the labels. If there is no label, take the material to an adult at once.
- 3. Do not mix one hazardous chemical with another. Mixed chemicals can cause serious injury to eyes, skin, and lungs.
- 4. When pouring a hazardous chemical, avoid splashing and dripping.
- 5. Do not smell (inhale) or swallow chemical products. Do not allow chemicals to touch your skin.
- 6. Do not eat or drink anything while you are handling hazardous chemical products.
- 7. Keep chemicals in their original containers, since important information is printed on container labels.
- 8. Make sure caps and lids on chemical containers are closed tightly.
- 9. Keep all chemical products, including household cleaners, out of reach of small children and pets.
- 10. There are many safe alternatives to household chemical products. Use them whenever possible.

How to Seek Shelter When Outside





At home, stay inside and Shelter In Place. Turn on the radio for information.

Go into a building or vehicle and Shelter in Place.



At school, stay inside your building and follow your teacher's instructions.



In a parked car, stay inside. Close windows and vents, and turn off air conditioner and heater. Turn on the radio for instructions.



If riding in a car, continue driving unless directed otherwise by officials. Turn on the radio for instructions.

Learn to detect the presence of hazardous materials. Recognizing them immediately will allow you to avoid direct contact. If you think you did contact a dangerous chemical, tell an adult immediately. They will get you medical treatment.



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Illustrations courtesy of **ExonMobil** Lenore Doyle, designer

Laurie Dent-Cleveland, M.Ed. Educational Consultant For further information about natural or man-made disasters, or disaster preparedness planning, please contact: Washington State Emergency Management Division at (800) 562-6108, or visit our Web site at: www.emd.wa.gov Local Emergency Management Office

SIDE 2 Show what you've learned to do during CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES



repellent cbp danger varnish đ 0 0 Ð bleach vapor paint -CHEMICALS AND WARNINGS c, × fire 4 q C, Φ HAZARDOUS rechargeable Circle the words flammable turpentine explosive ammonia 0 chlorine caution irritant thinner latex ർ Ø hazardous materials corrosive Ч Ø ц Ц warning q Φ poison 20 63 O spray toxic Ξ Ц Ц 9 gas 0 > đ 00 ø

Seek Shelter When Outside?

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