

23. JUST IN CASE

Sheltering in place

WHY ACT?

When evacuation is neither appropriate nor possible, you may be instructed to stay where you are. This could be as simple as remaining at home while officials clear hazards from a nearby area, or it could require more active measures during emergencies involving contaminated air.

PREPAREDNESS ACTION

- Step 1: Identify the room in your home that has the fewest windows or doors. Ideally the room should allow at least 10 square feet per person. This will be your *shelter-in-place* space.
- Step 2: Schedule a practice session with the other members of your household.
- Step 3: Close all doors and windows in your home.
- Step 4: Turn off all ventilation systems such as furnace, air conditioner and exhaust fans.
- Step 5: Have each household member grab his or her Go Bag (remember your pet's Go Bag, too) and go to the *shelter-in-place* space.
- Step 6: Take turns listening for radio broadcasts.
- Step 7: Don't use your telephone unless you have an emergency.
- Step 8: Only seal doors and windows when instructed to do so by emergency officials.

NOTE: In an emergency, a radio announcement will be made when the emergency is over. Only then will it be safe for you to open doors and windows.

MATERIALS

Your Go Bag and emergency supplies.

TIME

Thirty minutes to review and practice the *shelter-in-place* steps with your family.

RESILIENCY GAIN

Better a plan with no emergency than an emergency with no plan.