



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Jackson County Health Department

JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CHEMICAL RELEASE PREPAREDNESS

“SHELTERING IN PLACE” is an emergency response practice in which your current, indoor location becomes your shelter. This may be necessary if the air outside becomes temporarily unhealthy following a chemical release.

Listen to the radio and television for orders to shelter in place during an emergency. Pay attention to local officials for appropriate guidance, as every emergency situation is different. Follow social media pages of trusted, local public safety agencies.

WHAT TO DO IF SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER IS ANNOUNCED

Go inside immediately and take the following steps to ensure your safety:

- Shut and lock all windows and doors.
- Turn off the furnace, air conditioner, and fans.
- Close fire damper and any other openings, if possible.
- Pick the highest room inside the building with as few windows and doors as possible. This room will preferably have a water supply.
- If you're at home, bring your emergency disaster kit into your shelter room and shut the door.
- Turn on the radio and listen for updates.
- Place plastic sheeting over any windows and doors and seal with duct tape.
- If available, tape over any vents, outlets, or other openings.
- Do not go outside until local officials advise you it is safe.

EVACUATION DUE TO A CHEMICAL RELEASE

Government and local officials will notify you if an evacuation is ordered. Listen closely to the radio and television. If an evacuation is ordered:

- Leave immediately for a shelter and follow the evacuation route determined by emergency officials.
- Most supplies will be provided at the shelter, but bring your disaster emergency kit.
- If your children are at school, do not pick them up unless notified to do so.
- Notify a relative or friend in another state of your plans and location, as local phone lines may be busy.
- If you do not have a means of transportation, secure transportation to a shelter prior to an emergency.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE DURING A CHEMICAL RELEASE

In a vehicle:

- Find the nearest building and go inside. Cover your mouth while traveling from car to building.
- If there are no buildings around, close windows and vents and shut off the AC/heater.

In the open:

- Stay upstream, uphill, and upwind, at least one-half mile from the location of the release.
- Avoid contact with people and surfaces that could be contaminated.

How to dispose of contaminated clothing:

- Quickly remove clothing that has come into direct contact with a chemical and place in a plastic bag. Cut off clothing rather than pulling it over your head. Use tongs or other appliance to handle any contaminated clothing and place them also into the bag.
- Seal the plastic bag and place it into a second plastic bag. Alert local officials of your “contamination bag” for proper disposal.



ASSEMBLE A DISASTER EMERGENCY KIT

- Three day supply of water (one gallon of water per person, per day)
- Three day supply of non-perishable food (and can opener)
- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Cell phone and charger
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit (bandages, gauze, tweezers, disinfectant, gloves, pain relievers, thermometer, etc.)
- Whistle to signal for help
- Survival blanket (also known as a space blanket)
- Extra cash (about \$50)
- Medications, hand sanitizer, moist towelettes, plastics, and garbage bags
- Change of clothes (including rain jacket, gloves, hat, etc.)
- Pocket knife
- Wrench to turn off utilities
- Dust Mask
- Local maps for evacuation