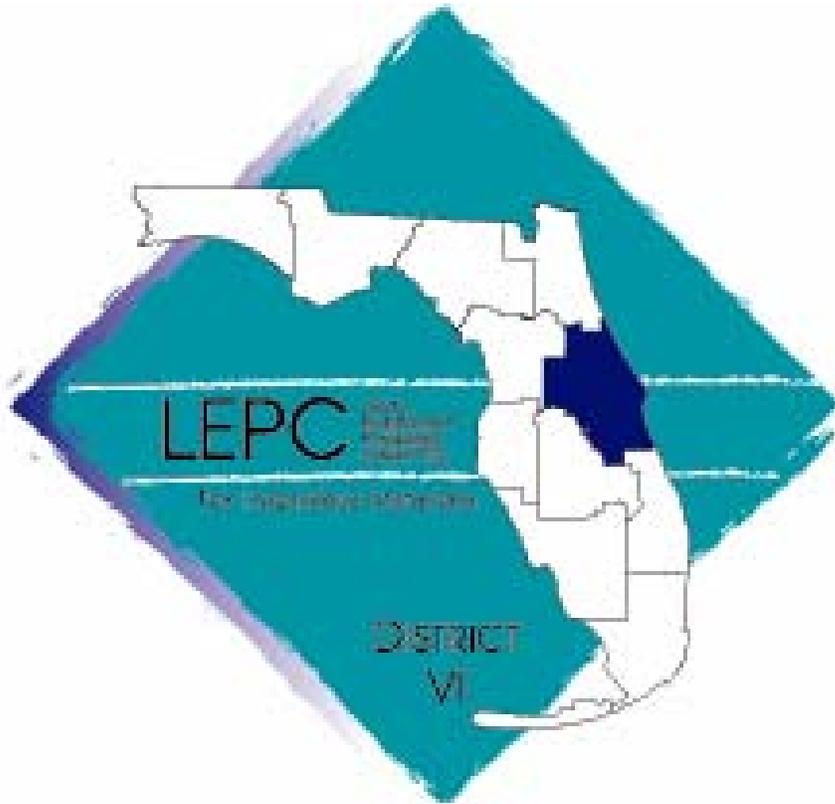


# *Make Haste Shelter – In - Place*



*We Take Your Safety Seriously*

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## MAKE HASTE

# SHELTER-IN-PLACE

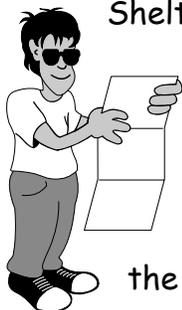
### INTRODUCTION



Chemicals are all around us. They are used in businesses, manufacturing, healthcare, and in our homes. Normally, these chemicals are used appropriately and do not create a hazard. But occasionally when an accident occurs, these chemicals can become a health and safety concern. Chemicals are transported on our roadways, railways, and even in the air. They may be in the form of a solid chemical, a liquid, or transported as a compressed gas. When an accident occurs, the chemicals that were very safe inside their container, now can become a hazardous material. If an accident involving these chemicals occur near your home or business, you may have to react quickly to stay safe. If you are advised by TV, radio, or emergency responders you must know how to **"MAKE HASTE, SHELTER-IN-PLACE"**.

This guide will help you prepare for these hazardous materials accidents and teach you how to shelter-in-place. The principle is simple to do and easy to understand. During some hazardous materials incidents it will be the safest way to protect yourself and your family. Just a little preparation and preplanning will get your home and workplace ready for a hazardous chemical incident. This program is designed to encourage self-reliance and a positive approach to dealing with hazardous chemical incidents.

### BE PREPARED FOR ALL DISASTERS



Sheltering-in-place for hazardous chemical accidents is not so different than preparing for any other disaster. Here in Florida we have been continuously reminded about the dangers presented by hurricanes and tornadoes. We are instructed to have water, canned foods, flashlights, etc. to take care of ourselves during the storm. A hazardous chemical accident may present



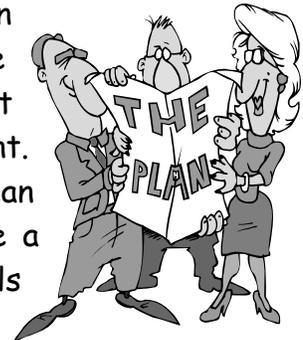
## MAKE HASTE - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

many of the same dangers presented during a hurricane, so the preparation is not so different. Straying outside during a hazardous chemical accident can also be dangerous. Closing doors, windows, and turning off the air conditioner or heater will prevent the chemical from gaining access into your home.

Not every chemical accident will require a special response from you. In fact only a few of these chemical spills will require you to do anything different. It is important for you to recognize when it is appropriate to stay inside and when it is time for you to evacuate. When you hear about a hazardous chemical incident in you area, watch TV, listen to the radio, and stay aware of what is happening around you.

### WHAT IS DIFFERENT WITH CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES?

Chemicals that are in liquid or solid form can give off dangerous vapors for hours. These vapors can be poisonous, flammable, or react with other chemicals involved in the accident. Chemicals that are in the gaseous form can find their way into low-lying areas and be a continuous danger. These same chemicals can also be an invisible hazard. Some do not have odors and may stay in the air for hours without you knowing it. If you can smell the chemical you may already be in danger. This may be a good time to go inside and prepare to shelter-in-place. Hazardous materials teams, usually part of the fire department, have special instruments to detect these chemicals so you must rely on these special teams to let you know when it is safe to go outside.



Because chemicals are used every day and in all areas of our communities, an accident can occur any time. We have all grown accustomed to hurricane season preparedness.





## MAKE HASTE - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

However, there is no season for a hazardous material emergency! It can happen any time of the day or night and any time of the year. It can happen in your neighborhood, workplace, or while you are on vacation. Just understanding how to shelter-in-place or knowing when to evacuate will help to keep you safe when these accidents happen.

### ASSESS YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Although these accidents can happen anywhere there are some things you can assess to determine if you live or work in an area high in chemical usage. Be aware of the type of business in your community. Look for manufacturing plants, chemical storage facilities, farming or chemical supply stores, or transportation hubs where numerous trucks or trains frequent. These are areas that are historically involved in hazardous chemical accidents.

If you live near a major interstate, highway, or railyard, the chances of you being effected by a hazardous material accident are greater than if you live in a rural area. It is your right to know what kinds of chemicals are used in your area. If you want to know just ask, companies must tell you what kind of hazard they present to the community if a chemical accident occurs.

### WHAT IS SHELTER-IN-PLACE?

Sheltering in place is not a new principle. By preparing for storms and making our homes ready we are, in essence, sheltering-in-place. To shelter-in-place for a hazardous chemical emergency many of the same principles hold true. The biggest difference is not the danger of structural damage but the intrusion of an airborne chemical into the clean air found in your home. There are some things you should do before the emergency takes place.

### BEFORE AN EMERGENCY YOU SHOULD:



## MAKE HASTE - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

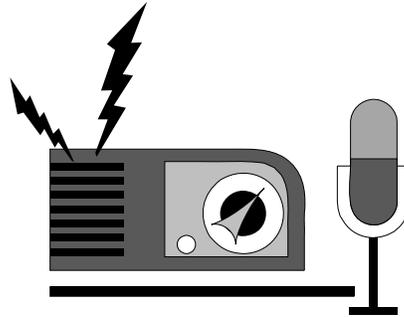


- Discuss shelter-in-place with your family and co-workers
- Determine your day-care center's policy on shelter-in-place.
- Find out how familiar your children's school is with shelter-in-place.
- Select a room in your home and business with few windows and doors.

Most hazardous chemical emergencies do not last more than a couple of hours, so many of the preparedness efforts are used for a much shorter period of time than efforts used during a hurricane. Below is a list of the items you should have available if you must shelter-in-place. The items on the list can be used for all emergencies where sheltering-in-place is used to keep your family safe.

### EQUIP YOURSELF

- Plastic sheeting
- Towels
- First aid kit
- Water
- Fresh batteries
- Non-perishable food
- Flashlight
- Duct tape
- Battery-powered AM/FM radio / NOAA Weather Alert Radio
- Activities for children and adults



### HOW WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED?

When a hazardous chemical emergency takes place, authorities will notify you. If the authorities have not notified you use your best judgement. If you smell a chemical or have burning in your eyes or nose it may be a



## MAKE HASTE - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

good time to shelter-in-place. Sometimes your friends or neighbors may hear about a hazardous chemical emergency and advise you of the danger. Other time's officials advise you of the impending danger. You may be notified by:

- AM/FM Radio
- NOAA Weather alert
- Television
- Police or fire department members
- Loud speaker
- Telephone



### WHAT DO YOU DO IF INSTRUCTED TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE?

- Go inside your home or building
- Go to a room with no windows
- Stay inside until you are instructed that it is safe
- Listen to the NOAA weather alert radio, weather radio, or watch TV
- Turn off heating and cooling systems
- Close all windows and doors
- If instructed, tape you windows/doors
- Keep your pets inside
- Wait for an **ALL CLEAR** from authorities on your TV or radio



**DO NOT GO TO SCHOOLS TO PICK UP CHILDREN, THEY WILL BE CARED FOR BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL.**



- If you are in your car
  - Role up the windows
  - Turn off the heater and air conditioner
  - Follow the directions of officials on the scene

### IF REQUESTED, PREPARE TO EVACUATE

If the situation escalates you may be asked to evacuate. Stay tuned to your radio or television. Local emergency management transmits important information on emergency



## MAKE HASTE - SHELTER-IN-PLACE

weather alert radio frequencies. Using a weather alert radio may be the best way to get up to date emergency information. Listen for additional information and if you are instructed to evacuate:

- **Pack only what you need:**
  - **Clothes**
  - **Medicine**
  - **Baby supplies**
  - **Flashlights**
  - **Portable radios**
  - **Cash**
  - **Checkbook**
- **Tie a towel or rag to your front doorway to indicate that you have evacuated the premises**
- **Please take your pets with you**
- **Follow evacuation routes as instructed**
- **Only use the telephone for emergencies**
- **Call 911 if emergency assistance is required**