

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL TERRORISM

Session 5 - Shelter-In-Place In Your Vehicle

1. REVIEW

What Shelter-in-Place Means:

Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building.

Why You Might Need to Shelter-in-Place:

Chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally or intentionally into the environment. Should this occur, local authorities on television and radio stations will provide information. The important thing is for you to follow instructions of local authorities and know what to do if they advise you to shelter-in-place.

2. HOW TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE IN YOUR VEHICLE

- If you are driving a vehicle and hear advice to "shelter-in-place" on the radio, take these steps:
- If you are very close to home, your office, or a public building, go there immediately and go inside. Follow the shelter-in-place recommendations for the place you pick described above.
- If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, then pull over to the side of the road. Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, it is preferable to stop under a bridge or in a shady spot, to avoid being overheated.
- Turn off the engine. Close windows and vents.
- If possible, seal the heating/air conditioning vents with duct tape.
- Listen to the radio regularly for updated advice and instructions.
- Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to get back on the road. Be aware that some roads may be closed or traffic detoured. Follow the directions of law enforcement officials.

Local officials on the scene are the best source of information for your particular situation. Following their instructions during and after emergencies regarding sheltering, food, water, and clean up methods is your safest choice.

For additional information and informative brochures on Shelter-in-Place at work and at school check out the Red Cross Website at:

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/shelterinplace.html>

For more information on how to protect yourself in case of Chemical attack check out the Homeland Security website at: <http://ready.gov/>

Next week - "Disaster Supplies Kit"