

# Shelter in Place

**Hazardous materials can be released accidentally or intentionally. It is important that you know what to do if you are notified to “Shelter in Place” by emergency personnel.**

## **Shelter in Place means:**

- Turn off fans, heating, and air conditioning
- Close all doors and windows
- Close and seal the fireplace flue
- Get your emergency supplies (food, water, flashlight, first aid kit, prescription medication, radio, N95 mask, etc.)
- Go to an interior room & close the door (*room should be above ground level*)
- Seal leaks around doors and windows with thick plastic and duct tape
- Listen to radio (KFJC 89.7 FM, 1670 AM or 1590 AM or 740 AM) or television for additional instructions

**Suggestion:** Pre-select the interior room you will use at home or work. Cut plastic sheeting and duct tape to fit each window, door, and vent. Label each piece. Roll them up and keep with duct tape in a convenient location. Keep a stash of emergency supplies, games, puzzles, books, etc., in the room.

## **If you are outside:**

- Stay calm
- Go to the nearest building and alert others about the announcement
- Advise others what you know about “Shelter in Place”
- Provide your phone number and address for later contact if needed
- Offer eyewitness accounts of the event

## **If you are in your car:**

- Stay calm
- Go to the nearest building, if possible, and alert others about the announcement
- Advise others what you know about “Shelter in Place”
- Otherwise close car windows, turn off air conditioning, & drive away from contaminant
- Offer eyewitness accounts of the event

## **Note:**

- The goal of “Shelter in Place” is to minimize your exposure to outside air
- You may have to stay inside for several hours

# ***Hazardous Materials Decontamination***

***Hazardous materials can be released accidentally or intentionally. It is important that you know what to do if you suspect you have been contaminated – and how to remove the hazard.***

## **Discovering a hazardous contamination at home:**

- Stay calm, warn others inside the house
- Get out of the affected area, stay out, and isolate the area (close doors and windows, turn off fans and air-conditioning if safe to do so)
- Take frequent shallow breaths as you exit the contaminated area
- Call 9-1-1
- Decontaminate yourself (in a safe location) if necessary
- Don't return to, taste, smell, or touch anything in the contaminated area until appropriate decontamination has been completed
- Provide information to responders and record your observations

## **Self - Decontamination:**

- Put contaminated clothing in a plastic garbage bag
- Wash your body with lots of tepid water and soap. Wash for at least three minutes.
- Call 9-1-1

## **If you are in a public place:**

- Stay calm
- Don't leave the scene until told to do so
- Follow the directions of responders
- Provide your phone number and address for later contact if needed
- Offer eyewitness accounts of the event
- Don't leave the scene unless you have been decontaminated
- Be sure you receive proof of decontamination, or verification that decontamination was not necessary, from the responders

## **Decontamination Process Conducted by First Responders:**

- If there is time, decontamination will include setting up privacy tents, removing your clothing into plastic bags, showering, and dressing in paper coveralls
- If time is critical (because your life is at risk) you will be asked to take off your clothes immediately and participate in a mass shower

## **Note:**

- Removing clothing over your head may cause contamination around the eyes, nose, and mouth. Cut away clothing when possible.
- Powdery contamination should be moistened (prevents inhalation) before removing clothing
- Removing your outer clothing will remove 80% of most contaminants
- Oily liquid contamination should be blotted off skin before washing

# Terrorism

## What is Terrorism?

“The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government or civilian population, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” -- FBI

## The Terrorist's Goals

- Large number of victims
- Symbolic value
- Greatest possible media attention
- Produce mass panic

## NUCLEAR MATERIALS

Entering Body: Inhalation, swallowing, absorption through skin, penetrating radiation

Signs + Symptoms: Varies...burns, reddened skin, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hair loss, convulsions, and unconsciousness. *Symptoms occur within 30 min to 2 hours.*

Attack Indicators: Invisible, almost impossible to detect

## BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

Bacteria + Viruses: Anthrax, Smallpox, and Cholera

Toxins: Snake venom, scorpion venom, food poisoning

Body Entries: Inhalation, cuts or sores in the skin, injections, ingestion

Signs + Symptoms: Varies...coughing, flu-like symptoms, shortness of breath, weakness, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea. *Symptoms occur hours to days after attack.*

Attack Indicators: Unusual number of people with same symptoms, unusual or unplanned insecticide spraying, abandoned spraying devices, unseasonable illness, several people with food poisoning symptoms, terrorist reports attack

## CHEMICAL MATERIALS

Nerve + Blister: Agent Orange, Mustard gas

Body Entries: Inhalation, direct contact with skin/eyes, ingestion

Signs/Symptoms: Varies...red or irritated eyes/skin, choking, coughing, difficulty breathing, vomiting, nausea, runny nose, dizzy, loss of consciousness, convulsions, and seizures. *Symptoms occur seconds to minutes after attack.*

Attack Indicators: Groups of people displaying signs/symptoms, abandoned spraying devices, pools of liquid with unusual source (packages, backpacks, etc.)

# ***Citizen Awareness***

## **Be Aware of Your Surroundings**

### Physical signs:

- Unusual liquids
- Odors
- Strange fogs
- Clouds

### Medical symptoms or signs of distress:

- Many people in a specific environment displaying similar symptoms
- Strange behaviors
- Dead animals, birds, insects

### Report suspicious packages or activity

- Unattended backpacks, suitcases, or packages
- Suspicious activity around dumpsters, trash containers, vehicles

## **How to Report an Incident to a 9-1-1 Dispatcher:**

- Provide the incident location
- Report how many people are injured or sick, and describe symptoms
- Report if fire or explosions are involved
- Tell approximate incident time
- Provide details, is a container or vehicle involved, any particular markings, an unusual fog or smoke, hissing sounds, bursting sounds, etc.
- Report if there are indications of what the contaminate might be
- Tell responders where to meet you