



1. Make a Plan

2. Make a Kit

3. Listen

## SHELTER-IN-PLACE

*find a safe place right where you are*

In an emergency when harmful agents are in the air, evacuation may be dangerous. To prevent further exposure you may be told to find shelter indoors wherever you are. This is called Shelter-In-Place. These five steps to Shelter-In-Place are the same for home, work, or school.

1. **Go inside.** Quickly move people and pets indoors.
2. **Close and lock all windows and doors.**
3. **Turn off and close all venting systems.** Include air conditioners, bathroom and stove fans, and fireplace dampers.
4. **Go into an interior room and seal it.** Block any gaps to the outside air with tape and plastic or damp towels. Do not use the basement because some toxic gases collect in the lowest level of the house.
5. **Tune to your local radio or TV station for more information.**

**Children:** Many schools have their own emergency plans. Make sure your child's school has your current contact information. Discuss ahead of time the school's or caretaker's emergency procedures.

**Phones:** Stay off the phone lines to allow emergency calls to get through.

### Shelter-in-Place Kit



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio (battery or windup) | <input type="checkbox"/> Snack food       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clock (battery or windup) | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water             | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath towels      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight                | <input type="checkbox"/> Duct tape        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-aid supplies        | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sheeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries           |   |

# EVACUATION

*leaving the area in an emergency*



In an emergency, you may be asked by police, fire fighters or other officials to leave your home, a public building or your place of work. If this happens, you should:

1. **Follow directions**, but move quickly.
2. **Don't use the phone**, unless you need medical help right away.
3. **Bring ID**, such as a drivers license, state ID card, or insurance card.
4. **Bring your medications**, or other things you may need if you have special needs.
5. **Turn everything off and lock the doors and windows** before you leave. Don't forget your keys.
6. **Pack extra clothes**, if you have time.
7. **Plan for pets**. If you evacuate with your pet it is best to have them in a carrier.



# DECONTAMINATION

*cleaning harmful agents off of you and the things around you*

Decontamination means removing harmful agents and germs from skin, clothing, and objects. You may be asked to do this by police, fire, or other safety officials.

1. **Take off your clothes and other items**. Put everything in a plastic bag and then into another bag again (double bag). You may put important items, such as keys and money, in a separate sealed bag. Write your name on the bags.
2. **Shower** for 15 minutes, use lots of soap on your hair and body, then rinse off well. Warm water is best.
3. **If you wear contacts** wash your hands very well before touching your eyes to take them out.
4. **If your eyes are burning** rinse with water for 15 minutes. Warm water is best.
5. **If you feel sick, seek medical help**.

## For more information:

[www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov)  
[www.franklincountyohio.gov/health](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/health)  
[www.franklincountyohio.gov/ready](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/ready)  
[columbus.redcross.org](http://columbus.redcross.org)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Columbus & Metropolitan Medical Response System  
Business Hours M-F (614) 645-7089

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Business Hours M-F (614) 794-0213

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus  
Business Hours M-F (614) 253-2740



The Columbus and Metropolitan Medical Response System is a partnership among Columbus and Franklin County: law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management agencies, emergency medical services, emergency response agencies, public health organizations, hospitals, and other community partners.