

## DECONTAMINATION

*Decontamination means removing harmful agents and germs from skin, clothing, and objects.*

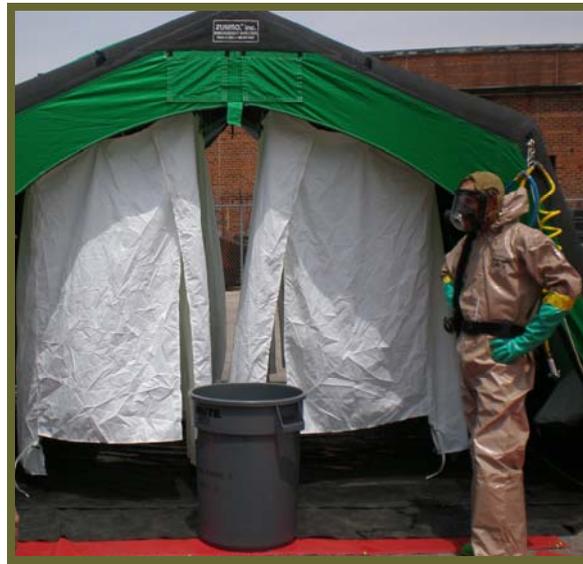
*You may be asked to do this by police, fire, or other safety officials.*

**Always follow the instructions given by authorities.**

**If there is a decontamination requested please listen and follow instructions carefully.**

### Normal Decontamination Procedure.

1. You will probably be given a packet containing all necessary equipment and instructions for a successful decontamination.
2. You will be triaged. (ask several questions concerning your condition.) This is necessary to determine what degree you have been contaminated and if you need medical attention. **If you feel sick**, or have difficulty breathing, have skin or eye irritation or a rash, please convey that information.
3. You will be asked to enter a **Decontamination tent**. You will be given step by step instructions on what to do during the process.
4. You will be given plastic bags to place your **contaminated cloths** in and possibly a separate bag for jewelry and cash.
5. **Take off your clothes and other items.** Put everything in the bag as instructed. You will be given something to put back on after the decontamination is complete.



During decontamination, **your privacy is respected** as much as possible.

Items that may be in your decontamination kit.



6. **Shower** for the amount of time instructed, using lots of soap, provided, on your hair and body, then rinse well.
7. Request special instructions **if you wear contacts** lenses. However, be sure to wash your hands very well before touching your eyes to take them out.

8. Report immediately if you develop symptoms at any time.
9. When decontamination is complete, put on your robe, slippers, or any other item provided in your decontamination packet.
10. There may be a shelter set up for you to report to if it is not safe to return to your home.

Depending on the severity of the contamination, decontamination procedure may differ from what is described in this brochure.

**Always follow instructions given by authorities!**

### How do you tell if there is a hazardous chemical emergency?

Most often, you will be notified by the local authorities. However, you should take action if you notice any of the following:

- ◆ An unusual and unexplainable smell or sound, such as an explosion
- ◆ Unexplainable, visible smoke, vapor or cloud
- ◆ Skin or eye irritation
- ◆ Breathing difficulty

*Green River District*  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Green River District  
Health Department  
Emergency Planning  
1501 Breckenridge Street  
Owensboro, KY 42303  
270-686-7747

## SHELTERING IN PLACE



**Would You Know  
What To Do?**

Green River District  
Health Department  
Emergency Planning

For more information on  
emergency planning  
please contact:

Green River District  
Health Department  
Emergency Planning  
270-686-7747

## Think About it

We live in a world of industry, where every day, we produce, transport, and use products created from chemicals. As a result, there is always a possibility that a hazardous chemical could be spilled while, being manufactured, transported by train, or a highway accident.

**We are all at risk** when it comes to the dangers of a chemicals. They could be in the form of a solid, a liquid or a gas. That means that you might not be able to see or smell anything. But they are extremely **dangerous to our family and pets**. We should Prepare now for the possibility of this event.

Most of us are familiar with what to do during a tornado or high wind situation. You go to the basement or center room of the house putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck, while listening to the radio. This is one type of sheltering in place.

However, there is another types of **shelter in place** order that may be given. What if there were a chemical spill in your area? The basement may not the safest place to be. Many chemicals are heavier than air, they will stay low to the ground and seep into the basement. In this case, it is safer to be at the highest level of your home. Always **listen to the radio** for instructions on what type of **shelter in place** is necessary. If it were a chemical spill or bioterrorism event, you may be required to seal off a part of your home to prevent your family from being exposed to the chemicals.

## Where To Start

Hopefully you will think this through and be prepared before a shelter in place order is given. This brochure contains **basic instructions** on sheltering in place. However, you must always **listen to the radio** for any special instructions.

### Lets start with selecting a room

This room should be:

- ◆ On the highest level of your home.
- ◆ Have the fewest amount of windows as possible.
- ◆ It should have 10 square feet of floor space per person in order to provide sufficient air to prevent carbon dioxide buildup for 5 hours.

### Prepare a **Shelter in place KIT**

The KIT should contain:

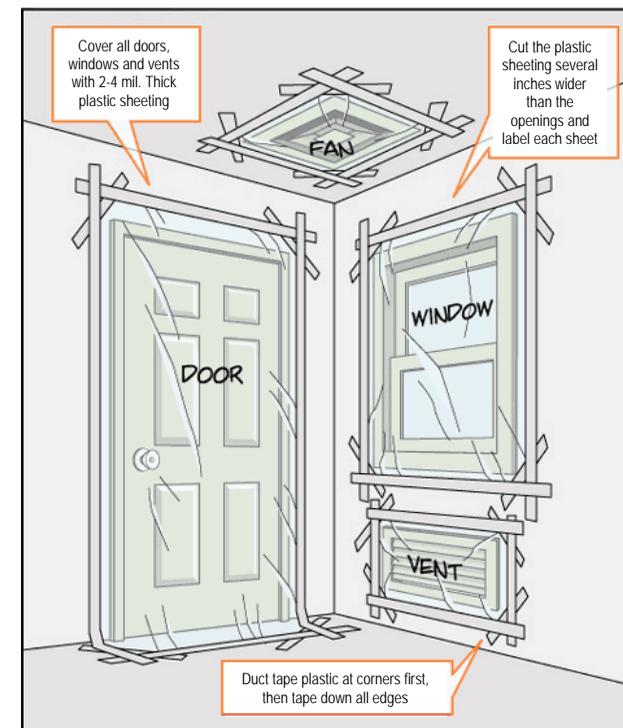
- ◆ Pre-cut plastic for sealing the windows, vents and all openings in the room. Cut the plastic a few inches larger than the opening, and label each piece
- ◆ Duct tape and scissors, to tape the plastic over the openings
- ◆ A plastic bucket with a lid and plastic liner bags. You can use the bucket to store your supplies and it may come in handy later as a make shift commode
- ◆ A roll of toilet paper or box of Kleenex
- ◆ Flashlight and battery-powered radio with extra batteries for both
- ◆ A few bottles of water for each person
- ◆ Non-perishable foods

- ◆ Reading material, or other entertainment items
- ◆ First-Aid Kit and required medications
- ◆ The room should also contain a phone or take a Cellular phone in the room with you.

### When a Shelter In Place Order is Given

If you are told to Shelter In Place by local authorities, please listen to there instructions.

- ◆ Bring all family members and pets indoors and send them to the shelter room
- ◆ Close and lock all windows and exterior doors. Also Close all curtains and window blinds if time allows
- ◆ Turn off all air conditioners, fans and heating systems, etc.
- ◆ Close the fireplace damper.
- ◆ Go to your pre-selected shelter room. If your supply kit is not already in the room take it with you, make sure your radio is working.
- ◆ Use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal windows, doors, vents, outlets, etc.
- ◆ Stay inside this room and listen to your radio or television until local authorities tell you the emergency is over OR you are told to evacuate.
- ◆ Do not overload the phone system. Use your phone for emergency purposes only.
- ◆ When local authorities announce the end of the emergency, ventilate your home by opening doors and windows. Turn the ventilation systems back on (fans/air conditioner or heating systems. Go outside until your home is aired out.



- ◆ Hopefully you will already have the plastic cut and stored in your chosen shelter room along with other Shelter In Place supplies.
- ◆ Cover all doors, windows and vents with 2-4 mil. thick plastic sheeting.
- ◆ Cut the plastic sheeting several inches wider than the openings and label each sheet.
- ◆ Duct tape plastic at corners first, then tape down all edges.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN

Many schools have their own emergency plans. Make sure your child's school or Day Care has your current contact information. Along with emergency contact information. Discuss ahead of time the school's or caregiver's emergency procedures.