



## Shelter In Place

### What Does Shelter In Place Mean?

Shelter In Place is the practice of going or remaining safely indoors during an outdoor release of a hazardous substance.

### Why Would You Shelter In Place?

The goal of Shelter In Place is to reduce the movement of air into and out of the building until the hazard has passed or other appropriate emergency actions can be taken (i.e. evacuation).

An event such as a fire, motor vehicle accident, train derailment, industrial accident, or a natural disaster may cause a hazardous substance release. If the hazardous substance is released in close proximity to housing, there may not be enough time to evacuate safely. In such instances, it may be safer to remain indoors.

Examples of when you may be asked to Shelter In Place:

- An outdoor release may affect your building
- There is not enough time or warning to safely evacuate
- The release is expected to pass over the area quickly
- The source and nature of the release has yet to be determined
- A safe evacuation route has yet to be verified
- When it is safe to evacuate but you need assistance

### How Do I Shelter In Place?



- Immediately gather everyone indoors
- Close & lock all windows and doors
- If convenient tape all gaps around exterior frames
- Extinguish indoor wood-burning fires, and close the fireplace damper
- Turn off all mechanical devices that exchange air with the exterior
  - Bathroom & kitchen exhaust fans
  - Built-in vacuums
  - Clothes dryer
  - Gas fireplaces
  - Gas stoves
  - Heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems for apartments, commercial building, and public facilities
- Leave open all interior doors
- Pay attention to local radio and television programming for updates
- Stay inside until you receive an "all clear" message from authorities.
- Once the danger has passed, you may be asked to ventilate your building by opening all windows and doors

For more information contact: Calgary Health Region at **943-LINK** or City of Calgary at **311**

