

## What “Shelter in Place” Means

There may be a time when an emergency takes place in our community due to an airborne chemical release. The outside air quality may be affected to the point that it isn't safe to be outside. In a case like this it is usually safer to take shelter in your home, business, or school until winds disperse and move the chemical away.



## How to Know if You Need to “Shelter in Place”

If there is an emergency that may pose a risk to the public, you will receive a notification about the emergency on your radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio. As an example...

*“There has been a release of anhydrous ammonia in your area. Please shelter in place while listening for further instructions.”*

For airborne chemical releases the safest immediate action is to shelter in place while listening for further instructions. For most releases, there is NOT enough time for evacuation.

## **SHELTER IN PLACE**

1. Go inside immediately and close all doors and windows.
2. Turn off all ventilation systems.
3. Once inside, go into and seal a room, if at all possible.
4. Turn on a radio or TV and listen for emergency broadcasts. In Houghton and Keweenaw County tune to WOLV 97.7 FM.

## What to Do

### Go inside:

- Find the nearest structure such as a home, school or public building. Bring pets inside if practical. If you are already indoors, stay there! Turn on a radio or TV and monitor your NOAA Weather Radio for information
- If you are in a vehicle, close all windows, manual vents, and ventilation systems, and turn the radio on to hear emergency broadcasts.

### Once you're inside:

- Shut all the windows, doors, and any vents that are not being used- everything that can be closed quickly, safely and easily to prevent the chemical from entering.

- Turn off all forced air heating and cooling systems, and close or turn off stove and bathroom exhaust fans. Do not turn off natural gas unless instructed, as only a professional can restore service once interrupted.
- Go to an inside room, preferably with no windows or outside air vents. The room should be as high in the structure as possible to avoid vapors that sink. Seal doors, windows, vents, etc. with plastic sheeting and tape, or with wet rags if available.
- Emergency lines will likely be overwhelmed. Do not use the phone unless it is an emergency.
- Continue listening to a local emergency alert station. You will be notified when the emergency is over, OR you may be given instructions to evacuate.



Most likely you will only need to shelter for a few hours.

## How to Prepare to “Shelter in Place”

It is important that you have a plan for your home, business or school for sheltering in place. Some key steps in this plan are:

- \* Know what doors and windows are likely to be open and assign someone to check and close them.
- \* Know where the manual vents are and how to close them.
- \* Know where forced air heating and cooling controls and power exhaust fans are and how to turn them off.
- \* Know what room you will go into and how to seal it. Have a KIT prepared like the one in this pamphlet.
- \* Have a radio (preferably two: one electric and one battery-powered) in the room you've selected. Tape the emergency alert system station numbers onto the side of each radio.

**Houghton & Keweenaw Counties  
Emergency Alert Station**



**WOLV 97.7 FM**

## Emergency Supply Kit

You should gather the following items together in a box to have ready for any emergency, including “shelter in place”:

- \* Plastic sheeting for windows
- \* Duct tape and scissors
- \* Towels and rags for vents and under doors
- \* Drinking water in jugs. In a shelter in place situation, do NOT drink water from the tap. If you run out, you *can* drink water from the toilet tank (NEVER the toilet bowl!) but **only** if there are no additives in the tank.
- \* A battery-powered radio (with emergency numbers written on the side) AND extra batteries
- \* A working flashlight AND extra batteries
- \* Non-perishable, ready-to-eat foods
- \* First aid kit, including prescription medications
- \* Special needs for infants, elderly, etc. in the home.

# SHELTER IN PLACE



**EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS  
FROM  
HOUGHTON & KEWEENAW COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES**

For more information call the  
Houghton and Keweenaw County  
Office of Emergency Measures at  
(906) 482-6400