



### Scenario Seven: Shelter-in-Place

A key element to successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster is the overall preparedness of individual citizens and their families. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a series of ‘What would you do?’ scenarios with your loved ones to assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to be discussed, as the name implies, around your dinner table. We do not want to know your results. Following the situation, we have included some discussion questions for the activity, as well as some helpful links to enhance your individual preparedness.

**Scenario:** You are getting ready to head out and start your day. The wind is blowing but the temperatures are mild and pleasant. You step outside to enjoy the sun, but a loud siren catches your attention. A patrol car from your local police department is slowly driving down your street, announcing over its loudspeaker that a truck carrying dangerous chemicals has overturned nearby and that all residents are being instructed to shelter-in-place until the fire department can determine if it is safe to go outside.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What actions should you take when instructed to shelter-in-place?
2. What is the difference between “evacuation” and “shelter-in-place”?
3. Where can you get information on the incident and the order to shelter-in-place?
4. If you were instructed to seal your home to prevent contaminated air from getting inside, how would you accomplish that?
5. What supplies are in your family emergency kit? Does your kit include supplies for a pet if you have one?
6. Does anyone in your family have any special needs (such as medical, emotional or physical needs, or limited English proficiency) that might present challenges if you had to stay at a shelter? If so, have you prepared a special plan for them?

#### Time to see how you did!

To learn more about this scenario and to check your plan, please visit: <https://www.ready.gov/shelter>. Discuss with your loved ones what steps you think you should take to improve your safety in the event such a tragedy occurs.

**Helpful Links:** To learn more about shelter-in-place preparedness, please visit:

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/shelterinplace/>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/shelterinplace.html>

<https://www.emergency.cdc.gov/shelterinplace.asp>