

Explosions & nearby shelling

ACTION CHECKLIST

Move away from windows and exposed areas into the most protective intact shelter you can reach safely. Stay clear of damaged buildings and unfamiliar debris. Keep family members together and shoes, a light and medicines close. A pause in explosions is not an all-clear; do not go out to film, investigate or collect fragments.

[] Get out of exposed space

Use a designated protective shelter if it is safely reachable. Otherwise choose the most protective intact interior space available, away from glazing. Consider fire, collapse, flooding and escape access; a basement is not safe if these hazards are present.

[] Protect yourself from secondary hazards

Keep away from windows, loose masonry and damaged electrical equipment. Keep footwear on when moving. Do not use a lift in a damaged building.

[] Check people without increasing exposure

Account for the household from shelter. Provide first aid only where you will not become another casualty. Send a brief private status message if service is available.

[] Reassess the building

Smoke, fire, instability or flooding may require movement to a safer reachable place. Do not interpret a quiet period as proof that streets or unexploded objects are safe.

[] Keep debris untouched

Never handle suspicious fragments, wires, containers or munitions. Keep children and pets away. Do not approach to take a photograph.

WATCH FOR

No ordinary room is guaranteed protection against weapons. Do not travel through active fighting or assume a claimed safe corridor has been secured.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

If broadcasts and emergency numbers fail, keep sheltering while it remains intact and safer than movement. Check essential supplies, agree on short check-ins and use trusted neighbours without sending people into exposed areas.

Updated 2026-10-02 | Civilian educational guidance. Seek qualified help when reachable and safe; do not delay immediate protective action.

Full guide: <https://ospreyzero.com/emergencies/explosions-shelling/>

ICRC · Urban warfare and civilian protection

