

Shelter-in-place

ACTION CHECKLIST

Get inside if the outdoor hazard makes travel more dangerous, and choose the room for that hazard: a lowest-floor sturdy interior area for a tornado, protective interior mass for fallout, or few outside openings for an airborne chemical release. Close openings and control ventilation only as the hazard requires. Do not remain in a burning, flooding or collapsing building, and do not wait for a message when immediate danger is visible.

[] Identify the hazard

Read the actual shelter instruction and affected area.

[] Choose the correct room

Use an interior low room for tornadoes, a basement or central area for fallout, and the room specified for a chemical event.

[] Bring immediate essentials

Take people, pets, medicines, phone power and a radio without delaying shelter.

[] Stay informed

Remain until officials advise otherwise, unless fire or another immediate danger makes the building unsafe.

WATCH FOR

Do not apply chemical room-sealing instructions to every hazard or remain in a burning building.

IF HELP IS UNAVAILABLE

Choose the room for the hazard, not the phrase: lowest sturdy interior area for tornadoes, protective interior mass for fallout, and a room with few outside openings for an airborne chemical threat. Leave a shelter that is burning, flooding or collapsing rather than following a generic stay-inside rule.

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/shelter-in-place/>

Shelter-in-place · official guidance