

Shelter-in-place

What you need to know

If hazardous materials are released into the air, you may be asked to shelter-in-place. These situations usually last a few hours. Information on how to protect yourself will be shared on radio, TV, the Internet and the [Alberta Emergency Alert](#) app.

At home

- Lock windows and exterior doors.
- Close window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- Turn off fans, heating and air conditioning. Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your [emergency kit](#) and make sure the radio is working.
- If you don't have a hardwired phone, bring a cell phone and charger.
- Call your emergency contact.
- Go to an interior room above ground, without windows. Above-ground locations are safer as some chemicals are heavier than air and seep into basements even if windows are closed.
- Bring pets with you along with food and water.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting, or wet towels, to seal cracks around doors and vents.
- Listen to radio or TV and check the Alberta Emergency Alert app until you're told the danger has passed or you're told to evacuate.

Driving

- If you are close to your home, office or a public building, get inside immediately and follow recommendations above.
- If you can't get to a building, pull over and stop in the safest place possible. If it's sunny, stop in the shade to avoid overheating.
- Turn the engine off. Close windows and vents. If possible, seal them with duct tape.
- Listen to radio for updates and instructions.
- Stay where you are until it's safe to go.

At work

- Lock all doors, windows and openings. Close window shades, blinds or curtains.
- Keep customers/visitors inside with you.
- Ask everyone to call their emergency contacts.
- Turn on call-forwarding and answering systems. Change voicemail recordings to say the business is closed and everyone is staying inside until it's safe outside.
- Ensure employees know how to turn off fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Turn off systems that automatically exchange inside air with outside.
- Gather non-perishable food, bottled water, battery-powered radios, first-aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, duct tape, plastic sheeting, and garbage bags.
- Go to interior room(s) above ground floor, with the fewest windows or vents. Large rooms without exterior windows work well. Avoid rooms with mechanical equipment like ventilation blowers or pipes that may be difficult to seal off.
- If you don't have a hard wired phone, bring a cell phone and charger.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting, or wet towels, to seal cracks around the door(s) and vents into the room.
- Write down everyone's name and call your business's designated emergency contact.

Contact your community's Director of Emergency Management or the Alberta Emergency Management Agency at 780-422-9000 or dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside Edmonton.