

# Shelter-in-Place for Multistory Buildings

Includes condos, apartments, offices, and schools

## Active Shooter

### Run. Hide. Fight.

**What to do:** Run away from shooter. Call 911 if safe to do so. Hide if you cannot get away safely. Silence electronic devices. Lock and block doors, close blinds, turn off lights. Fight as a last resort.

**How long to stay:** If you are not able to run to safety, stay in place until law enforcement gives you notice that the danger is over.

## Hurricane (High Wind, Flooding, Storm Surge)

**Shelter-in-Place:** For high wind go to a windowless room on the lowest level. For flooding go as high as possible but not into the attic.

**What to do:** For high wind, go to a small, interior, windowless room in the lowest level.

**How long to stay:** Stay inside until local authorities provide other instructions.

## Thunderstorm

**Shelter-in-Place:** Stay inside.

**What to do:** Pay attention to weather reports. Be ready to change plans if necessary. Unplug appliances, avoid using running water or landline phones.

**How long to stay:** For the length of the storm.

## Winter Storm

**Shelter-in-Place:** Stay inside. Limit time outside.

**What to do:** Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by using generators and grills ONLY outdoors, 20 feet from the house and away from windows. Never heat a building with a gas stove top or oven.

**How long to stay:** For the length of the storm.

## Flooding

**Shelter-in-Place:** If the floodwaters rise to a dangerous level, get on the roof if possible and call 911.

**What to do:** Listen for current emergency information and instructions. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery ONLY outdoors and 20 feet from the house and away from windows.

**How long to stay:** Stay inside until authorities indicate it is safe to leave.

## Flash Flooding

## Pandemic

**Shelter-in-Place:** Stay Home. Minimize access to your home from anyone not isolating with you.

**What to do:** Reduce trips outside to only essential requirements. Clean surfaces often with disinfectant. Wash hands for 20 seconds frequently with soap. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days or weeks. If you must go to an office, campus, or live in a multi-story building, make sure to wear a mask and keep a physical distance of at least 6 ft apart.

**How long to stay:** As advised by local public health officials.

## Chemical Hazard

**Shelter-in-Place:** Stay inside and seal the room. Use duct tape and plastic sheeting to seal around the windows and doors.

**What to do:** Lock all doors and windows. Drink stored water, not water from the tap. Turn off the air conditioner, furnace, and fans. Close the fireplace damper and seal off any other place where air may come in from outside.

**How long to stay:** Should not last longer than a few hours. Listen to authorities to know when it is safe to leave.

## Earthquake

**Shelter-in-Place:** Stay where you are and Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Get under and hold on to sturdy furniture. Protect the head and neck with arms or pillows.

**What to do:** Drop, Cover and Hold On. If in a bed, turn onto stomach and cover your head and neck with a pillow.

**How long to stay:** Until the shaking stops.

## Nuclear Detonation

**Shelter-in-Place:** Go to a basement or middle of the building. Stay away from the outer walls and roof. Take shelter in a basement, underground parking garage, or other lowest level in the structure.

**What to do:** Remove contaminated clothing and wipe off or wash unprotected skin if you were outside after the fallout arrived.

**How long to stay:** Stay inside for 24 hours unless local authorities provide other instructions, or the building is on fire or in danger of collapsing.

## Tornado

**Shelter-in-Place:** Go to a small, interior, windowless room, in the lowest level.

**What to do:** Protect your head and neck. Take additional cover by putting blankets around you.

**How long to stay:** Stay inside until weather forecasts and local authorities say it is safe to do so. Use extreme care when leaving a building as there may be dangerous debris.



FEMA  
Nov. 2021