

## Sheltering in place

The parts might cost \$50-\$100 depending what you have on hand and where/what you buy.  
The time to plan might be a couple of hours.  
Practice on a single window or door might take less than an hour

I welcome corrections and positive feedback. But keep brutality to yourself. Streamlining is welcome

The idea of sheltering in place can be important for the landfill, terrorist attacks, chemical leaks and other disasters. This paper will attempt to provide basic suggestions for airborne issues only. Sheltering in place for an earthquake or tornado is very different.

**1.** Plan in advance. The easy way to find drafts is to take a candle or soft smoke item and watch which way the flame/smoke goes. Here are your drafts. Sealing these will save you money and protect you from airborne issues.

I would not use basement for sheltering in place from an airborne problem because gases and particulates settle....and it might find leaks to your basement. Second floor might be better. Choose an "inner sanctum" room where you will move all your supplies are a best able to seal off. This should be near the bathroom and you can hang plastic to isolate this from the rest of the house.

Find all the light sources into your basement...and caulk them...there are many leaks between your house and your foundation.

**2.** Have supplies on hand (from Menards or Home Depot), keep them in a sealed box so they don't disappear.

Duck Tape roll(s) thick clear painters plastic (not the cheap stuff, the thick stuff, buy a double roll its cheaper)

Scissors and razor knife

Long towels or wide strips of absorbent cloth

Dry erase and/or permanent marker (and paper)

Good quality packing tape (2 inch clear)

Staple gun with staples get or make 1x2 strips of wood to screw into the windows (drywall screws are fine and cheap)

Caulk (optional)

FM radio, FRS radio, cell phone charger (amateur radio if licensed)

Candles to test for leaks

Can of spray paint and small tarp (5x7 is fine) to paint "help" and hang in front of your house so emergency crews ID you quickly

**3.** Make an inspection of the house where all the leaks are

Attic access

Vents, dryer, kitchen, bathroom

Windows

Doors

**4.** Walk through of shelter in place...

Get some thick plastic (scraps are OK) some packing tape and staples, cut the thick plastic a few inches wider than a window, fold over the edges and staple to the window frame. Then tape the seam to the window frame.

## 5. How to seal off

Ideally, if you have warning you will want to put plastic both on the outside and inside of windows.

If you want to see how well this is, put a fan outside the window and hold a lit candle around the seam of the window.

Seal all the doors except for one which is furthest away from prevailing wind and the expected source...you can also use a window for this. This is what you are using to get back in your house...make the outer plastic like a flap, that you staple and seal to the doorway after you are in.

Seal all vents, for some; you might want to use a piece of plastic with a rim of caulk covered with a piece of metal or wood screwed to where the vent is.

If safe, seal the windows and doors from the outside and the inside. If unsafe to go outside just seal the inside.

Take the towels and soak them in water and put them at the base of the door jams, you can use the caulk to seal any leaks on doors or windows before putting up the inside plastic.

The markers and such are for signs on the windows, doors; particularly the front ones and I would include the following info. So rescuers know you are in there.

Names of those inside, ages, cell phone number or radio channels (like FRS), date/time of notice

If you do not have time to secure the outside, you can tape this paper to the windows or actually write on the windows (but figure out how to do it reversed)

Sometimes you want to fill up your tubs and sinks and containers with tap water before the water supply is contaminated....your water heater is 30-50 gallons of fresh water, turn off the water inlet to the water heater if you plan to use this as emergency water.

Note: one of my goals is to do as little damage as possible when doing this...so I would not "glue" the plastic to windows or doors except when things are catastrophic....caulk peels off. You can seal things off where there is nothing some wood filler and paint won't fix in a couple of hours.

## **Minimum needs (SEPARATE CONTRIBUTOR BELOW)**

As we do not have an exact date or time you may want to at minimum have these 2 items on you.

1. Emergency blanket the silver ones that can keep u warm in a pinch this will be used to put over your head to protect your eyes and ears from particles in the ash if you are out when this occurs.
2. A painters face mask for mouth and nose coverage.

Both item run at 1-3\$ Keep them with u at all times. Doing this will protect u best possible from particles being ingested as this way it will get to your lymph nodes and cause major harm.

If event should take place put on mask immediately, if you have to go out in ash-place blanket over head to protect eyes and ears-once in car turn off all vents before starting car.

Once home and I mean this for real Strip outside backdoor leave everything outside including blanket **don't** touch anything go straight to shower and stand under hot water for 30 minutes.

**No soap No scrubbing** this is to get anything that has fallen, off of you if you scrub u are rubbing particles into your skin that could result in skin cancer.

At this point turn off ventilation accesses furnace a/c preferably cover all windows n vents and doors with plastic and duct tape.

**Do not shelter in basement** as radon gas will stay lowest level to ground

We will likely smell the fire before we see it

Expecting acid rain event - but likely east of St Ann

Best guesstimate no help for a week for those who can prep for a month just in case.