There may be situations, depending on circumstances and type of disaster, when it is best to stay where you are and avoid going outside. The safest place to seek shelter varies by hazard. Find out which disasters are more likely to occur in your area and have plans for each.

Choose a shelter in your home or another building that is safe for that hazard.

- Watch TV, listen to radio, or check the internet often for official information and instructions
- The duration of time you are required to shelter can vary greatly. It is important that you stay in shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave

Mass Care Shelter

- Mass care shelters are not always activated during an emergency. Be prepared to find alternative shelter with family, neighbors, or in a hotel
- Mass care shelters often provide water, food and medicine and basic sanitary facilities, but you should still plan to take a disaster supply kit
- To avoid conflict in this stressful living situation, it is important to cooperate with shelter managers
- Most care shelters will not allow pets. Make a plan for a pet shelter.

Sheltering in place will depend on the emergency situation, but in general you should:

- Get inside
- Find a safe spot
- Stay put
- Seal the room: A process that creates a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside
- Bring family and pets inside
- Lock doors and close windows
- Turn off fans, air conditioning, and forced air heating systems.
- Seal all windows, doors and vents with thick plastic sheething and duct tape