



# Protective Measures

## Stay Put to Stay Safe: Learn How to Shelter in Place

Depending on the emergency and conditions outside, it may be safer for you and your family to stay inside your home or workplace rather than leave or evacuate. This is known as sheltering in place (SiP).

### Be Prepared:

- **Predetermine a room** that will be your Safe Space during an emergency. An upper level room with few or no windows is best. Choose an area that can be sealed off easily, with access to necessities like food, water and washroom facilities. A good example would be an upper level bedroom with an en suite.
- **Prepare a 72 Hour kit for you and all members of your family**, including your pets. It is a good idea to keep the kit in your Safe Space. For more information on what to put in your kit, visit [www.london.ca/emergencypreparedness](http://www.london.ca/emergencypreparedness).
- **Include materials to keep your Safe Space air tight** in case of a hazardous materials event. This includes duct tape, towels and pre-cut pieces of plastic sheeting for over the windows.
- **Sign up** for notification services. For more information, visit [www.london.ca/emergency](http://www.london.ca/emergency).

## Know the risks

Make a plan

Prepare a kit

You may need to Shelter in Place (either in your home, in a sealed small room, or in your vehicle) during:

- Severe weather events.
- In the event of contaminants being released accidentally or intentionally into the environment.
- Any other type of emergency determined by local officials.

### If you are asked to Shelter in Place:

If local officials tell you to Shelter in Place, act quickly. Listen carefully to local radio or television stations for instructions, because the exact directions will depend on the emergency situation. In general you should:

- **Turn off and close all venting systems.** This can include HVAC, central air, fans (i.e. bathroom and stove) and closing all open doors and windows.
- **Go to your designated Safe Space.** Be sure to bring pets with you and be aware that you will need plenty of plastic bags, newspapers, containers, and cleaning supplies to deal with pet waste.



Preparation you can't live without.

## Stay in Touch:

Once you and your family are in place, let your emergency contact know what's happening, and listen carefully for new information.

- **Call or text your emergency contact.** Let them know where you are, if any family members are missing, and how you are doing.
- **Use your phone only as necessary.** Keep the phone handy in case you need to report a life threatening emergency. Otherwise, do not use the phone, so that the lines will be available for emergency responders.
- **Keep listening to your radio, television, or phone for updates.** Do not leave your shelter unless authorities tell you it is safe to do so. If they tell you to evacuate the area, follow their instructions.

## Sheltering in Place in Your Vehicle

In some emergencies, it is safer to pull over and stay in your car than to keep driving. If you are very close to home, your workplace, or a public building, go there immediately and go inside. Follow the "Shelter in Place" recommendations for that location. If you can't get indoors quickly and safely:

- **Pull over** to the side of the road.
  - Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible and turn off the engine.
  - Avoid becoming overheated. If it's warm outside, stop under a bridge or in a shady spot.
- **Stay where you are** until officials say it is safe to get back on the road.
- **Listen to the radio for updates** and additional instructions.
  - Modern car radios do not use much battery power, so listening to the radio for an hour or two should not cause your car battery to die.
  - Even after it is safe to get back on the road, keep listening to the radio and follow directions of law enforcement officials.



### *Be sure you know the difference*

*between being asked to **Shelter in Place** and to **Evacuate***

## Grab, Go, and Be In The Know: What to do During an Evacuation

During an emergency, as a precaution or due to an eminent threat, you may receive instructions to leave your home or place of business. It is important to remember to stay calm, follow instructions that you are given very carefully and listen for updates.



### Be Prepared

- **Make a Grab and Go bag** for each member of your family (don't forget your pets!). Be mindful of any special needs each individual may have and be sure to include copies of keys and important documents you may need.
- **Make an evacuation plan.** Have a list of out of town friends or family you can contact in case of an emergency.
- **Sign up for alerts.** To find out more visit [www.london.ca/emergency](http://www.london.ca/emergency).

### If you are asked to evacuate:

- **Keep calm.**
- **Listen to instructions carefully.** Follow the evacuation route advised by emergency officials.
- **Keep friends and family informed.** They worry about you!
- **Stay tuned** for further instructions and directions on how to return to your home.

### For more tips on emergency preparedness:

[www.london.ca/emergency](http://www.london.ca/emergency) [www.ontario.ca/emo](http://www.ontario.ca/emo) [www.GetPrepared.ca](http://www.GetPrepared.ca)