A different kind of emergency

Most of us know to go to the basement when there’s a tornado, and to get out quickly in case of fire. But would you know what to do if a dangerous chemical is released or spilled in your neighborhood?

Hazardous chemicals are all around us. They are used in factories and on farms, and are transported on our highways and rail lines. They can be solids, liquids or gases. While some can be seen and smelled, others may be invisible or odor free.

If a hazardous chemical is spilled or released into the air — either accidentally or with criminal intent — you may need to take protective actions until the spill is cleaned up or the gas cloud blows away.

Different emergencies, Different responses

TORNADO
GET DOWN

FIRE
GET OUT

CHEMICAL
SEAL UP

For more information, visit www.preparemetrokc.org

Be prepared to protect yourself and your family.
Learn how to shelter in place.

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Know when to shelter in place

In situations that require sheltering in place, you will be notified by the authorities in your community. You may hear an explosion, see a smoke or vapor cloud, or notice an unusual smell.

There are various useful weather notification tools such as NOAA weather radios, television, local radio, social media and notifications sent to mobile devices. Listen for instructions. Take all warnings seriously and remember to assist those who are disabled, elderly or have special needs. Follow the instructions of authorities. If you are told to shelter in place, take action immediately.

Choose the right room

Before an emergency happens, think about which room in your house would provide the best shelter.

An upper-level room with few or no windows is best, because some gases and chemicals are heavier than air, and they sink to lower levels.

Choose an area that you can seal off easily, preferably one with access to telephone, water and a toilet. An upstairs bedroom with an adjoining bathroom would be ideal.

Seal it up

Once inside your shelter room, take steps to keep dangerous chemicals out:

• Dampen towels and place in front of the crack under the door.
• Cut plastic sheeting to fit over windows and vents. Secure the plastic sheeting with duct tape.
• Tape around the door.
• Listen to radio or TV for instructions. Don’t open up or leave your sealed shelter until you are told to do so.

Be aware and be prepared

Sheltering in place is important in very specific types of emergencies. Is your family ready for other kinds of disasters? Learn more about preparedness, make a family plan and get a list of supplies you should keep on hand at www.preparemetrokc.org.

PrepareMetroKC.org
Make a supply kit. Have a plan. Stay informed.