

Public Safety Fact Sheet

A publication of the Washington County Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee

In response to recent world and national events, representatives from police and fire agencies, local governments, health officials and emergency managers within Washington County have increased coordination and communication. The goal of this effort, known as the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee (ATAC), is to help ensure an effective countywide response to a major public safety incident. Additionally, ATAC is committed to enhancing public safety by educating the community on topics of public interest and concern through an on-going series of informational fact sheets.

Prepare Safely

The federal government has recommended that the public purchase duct tape and plastic sheeting to prepare for a possible chemical/biological/radiological event. These supplies are intended to be used for Shelter-in-Place procedures. While Shelter-in-Place is one of several steps that you can take to protect yourself, a 72-Hour Kit and a Family Emergency Communication Plan are still the best means of preparing you and your family for a multitude of hazards.

Shelter-in-Place

“Sheltering-in-Place” simply means staying put inside your home, workplace, or other building until the emergency passes and the “all clear” signal is given. **Shelter-in-Place is intended to be use for short-term protection** from airborne chemical, biological, and some radiological threats. Public safety organizations have long encouraged individuals living next to chemical facilities or major transportation routes to have Shelter-in-Place supplies on hand. **If you are considering creating a “shelter” within your home now or in the near future, we remind you to do so safely by following the recommendations below.**

Choose a Room: The ideal room has few windows, is large enough to house your family or coworkers comfortably, and preferably has access to water. A bedroom with an adjoining bathroom, or an employee break room, may be a good choice.

Prepare Window Coverings: When the room is used as a shelter, the windows must be sealed against any outside air entering. Measure all window openings, the add six inches on all sides of each window measurement. Don't forget skylights. Cut plastic sheeting according to the measurements. Label each sheet to show which window it covers. Store enough duct tape to go around all windows completely.

Prepare Vent and Door Coverings: Measure each vent and door openings leading outside the room. Cut and label plastic sheeting for each opening. Also have a towel on hand to place under the door to seal against outside air.

Supplies: Keep the plastic sheeting, duct tape, and other recommended supplies (towel, battery-operated radio, flashlights, batteries, food, water, etc.) in your room in case of emergency.



For More Information:

Office of Consolidated Emergency Management: (503) 649-8577; www.ocem.org

www.redcross.org

www.fema.gov