

SECTION 1: SHELTER-IN-PLACE GUIDANCE

1.1 *Shelter-in-Place*

Shelter-in-Place is one of the basic instructions you may receive from public safety officials during an emergency in your community. Sheltering in place will provide you and your family immediate protection for a short time in your home. If you are told to shelter-in-place, take your children and pets indoors **immediately**.

Following are some general suggestions that will guide you before, during and after an emergency. There may be situations when it is best to stay where you are to avoid any uncertainty outside. There are other circumstances, such as during a tornado or a chemical incident, when specifically **how** and **where** you take shelter is **a matter of survival**. You should understand the different threats and **plan for all possibilities**.

1.1.1 Planning For An Emergency

- Study your surroundings for fixed and mobile sources of hazardous materials
- Learn about any emergency communications where you live and work
- Riverside County Fire/OES can provide necessary information
- Prepare a shelter-in-place kit appropriate for the type (s) of emergencies that could occur near you
- The kit should contain duct tape for sealing cracks around doors and windows; 2-4 mil plastic sheeting (preferably precut to size) to cover windows; a battery-operated AM/FM radio; flashlight with fresh batteries; bottled water; towels; toys for young children; candles; matches; first-aid kit and medicine and other items essential for your family's survival
- Check the kit every six months to make sure all the supplies are still there and that they are fresh
- Find out which radio, television and cable systems in your area broadcast emergency information
- Learn CPR and first-aid
- For a place to shelter, select a room in your house that has few or no windows
- The room should have a telephone for emergency use
- Make sure all family members know what to do in an emergency, whether they are at home, school, work or outdoors
- Review your plan periodically and conduct practice drills

1.1.2 During An Emergency

When you learn of the emergency:

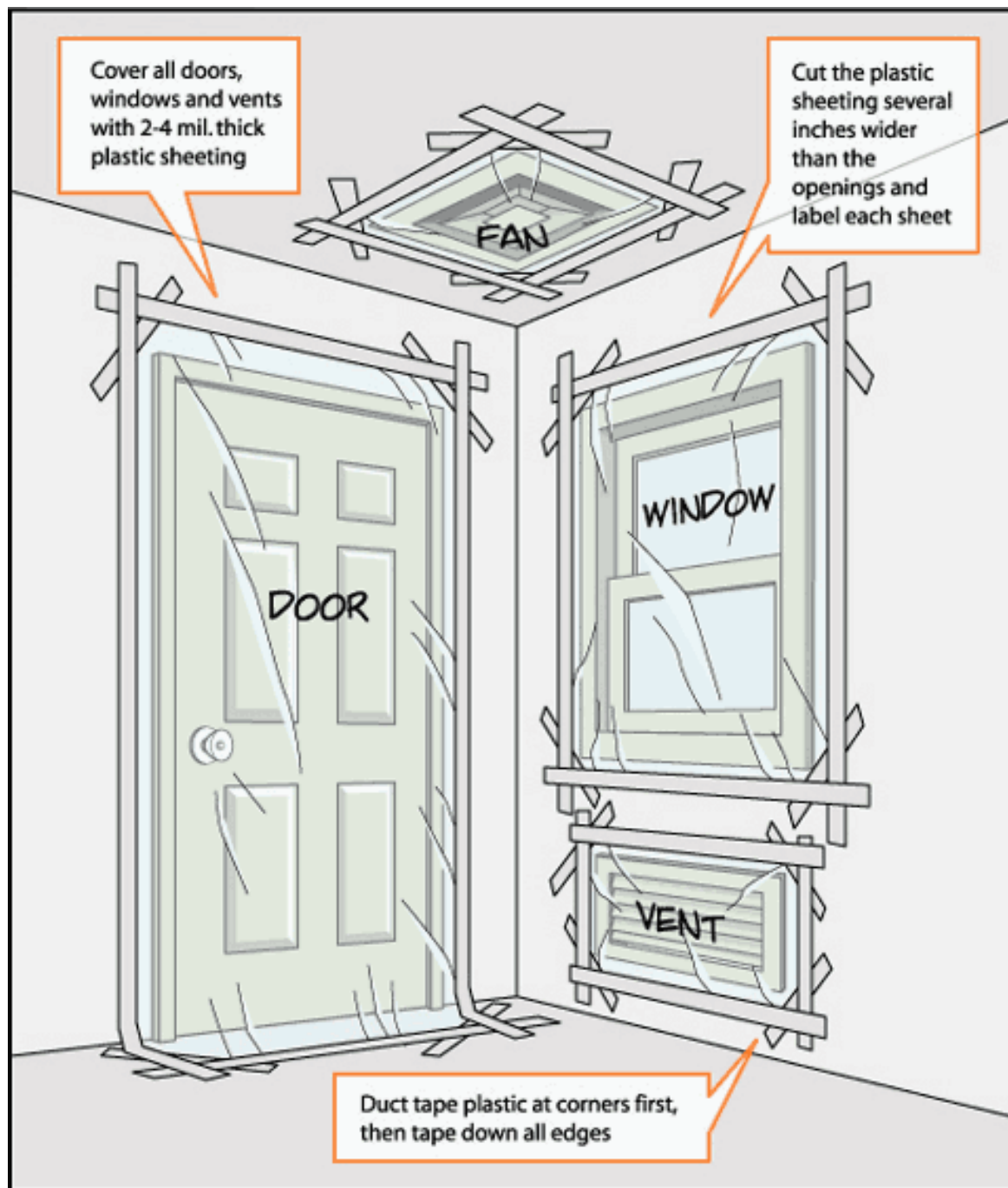
- **Immediately** take your family and pets to the room you have chosen as a shelter; if your children are at school, do not leave your house to go get them; going outside could expose you to hazardous conditions; also, schools have emergency plans of their own
- Shut off heating, cooling and fans that draw in air from the outside
 - If you have a fireplace, close the damper
- Shut and lock doors and windows
 - Locking makes a better seal
 - Cover any windows with plastic sheeting
 - Seal cracks around the door and windows with duct tape
- Turn on a radio or television to a local station that broadcasts emergency information
- Stay tuned until the "all clear" message is broadcast
- Stay off the phone
 - It should be used for emergency calls only
- Be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so by public safety officials
 - Evacuation instructions will be announced over the EAS (radio / TV) or through the EWNS (phone)

1.1.3 After An Emergency

When you hear the "all clear" message over the EAS or EWNS, you should:

- Open doors and windows
- Turn on your heating/cooling system to ventilate the house
- Go outside if safe to do so
- Check your home and property

If you are instructed by local authorities to take shelter, do so immediately.



[Click here](#) to view, download or print the diagram with graphics.