

---

## PROVEN PRACTICE

### Policy

---

## Shelter-in-Place Guidebook

### SUMMARY

This 64-page guidebook provides information and advice on planning for and implementing shelter-in-place to protect the public from a known hazardous chemical release.

### DESCRIPTION

FEMA's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program developed this Guidebook to protect eight communities adjacent to the U.S. Army's chemical weapons stockpile. This Guidebook was made available to FEMA's State and local government partners whose residents might be asked to shelter-in-place in the event of an incident involving the stockpile.

This Guidebook is intended for State and local planners and decision-makers. The introduction discusses the value of temporarily sheltering-in-place as part of a comprehensive protective action strategy and the different options for sheltering-in-place. The following chapters address (1) shelter-in-place planning, training, outreach and exercises and (2) initiating, maintaining, and ending shelter-in-place in an actual emergency. An appendix discusses the use of computer models to determine when it is appropriate to terminate an order to shelter-in-place and walks through a hypothetical scenario.

Please note that this Guidebook is intended only to address sheltering-in-place to protect against exposure to hazardous chemicals; the approach described is not appropriate for other situations that could result in an order to shelter-in-place from local authorities, such as a weather emergency or an active shooter situation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Jurisdictions evaluating a protective action strategy that includes shelter-in-place for the public in the event of a hazardous chemical release should review the considerations outlined in this Guidebook as part of the planning process.

### REFERENCES

The Guidebook is available to download from LLIS.

### DISCLAIMER

*The views expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Lessons Learned Information Sharing. Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) is the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency management and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the Department of Homeland Security. For more information on LLIS.gov, please email [feedback@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:feedback@llis.dhs.gov) or visit [www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov).*

---

*LLIS.gov* defines Innovative Practice as successful and innovative procedures, techniques, or methods developed and/or implemented by the emergency management or response community to adapt to changing circumstances that others may wish to emulate.