

SHELTER
State the Hazard and Safety Strategy

SHELTER
Shelter is called when specific protective actions are needed based on a threat or hazard. Training should include response to threats such as tornado, earthquake , hazardous materials situation or other local threats.

PUBLIC ADDRESS
The public address for shelter should include the hazard and the safety strategy. The public address is repeated twice each time the public address is performed.

"Shelter! For a hazard. Using safety strategy.
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HAZARDS MAY INCLUDE
- Tornado
- Severe weather
- Wildfires
- Flooding
- Hazmat spill or release
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

SAFETY STRATEGIES MAY INCLUDE
- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

ACTIONS
Collaboration with local responders, the National Weather Service, and other local, regional and state resources will help in developing specific actions for your district response.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM
The Incident Command System should be initiated.

RESPONSIBILITY
Each individual is responsible for sheltering. Campuses should have procedures for all foreseeable local hazards and threats which include provisions for those individuals with access and functional needs.

PREPARATION
Identification and marking of facility Shelter areas.

DRILLS
Shelter safety strategies should be drilled at least once a year, or as mandated by the state.

SHELTER - STATE THE HAZARD AND SAFETY STRATEGY
Using the Shelter Protocol and stating the hazard allows for understanding of the threat and the associated protective actions. Most often, the Shelter Protocol is utilized for tornadoes and other severe weather, in which case it would include the shelter location for students and staff, and what protective posture or action they should take.

Sheltering for a Hazmat spill or release is very different. In the case of a Hazmat situation, students and staff would be directed to close their windows, shut down their heating and air conditioning units and seal windows and doors to preserve the good inside air while restricting the entry of any contaminated outside air. Listening to specific directives is critical to a successful emergency response.

PLAIN LANGUAGE
NIMS and ICS require the use of plain language. Codes and specific language that are not readily understood by the general public are no longer to be used. The SRP uses shared, plain, natural language between students, staff and first responders. If there are specific directives that need to be issued for a successful response on a campus, those should be made clearly using plain language. There is nothing wrong with adding additional directives as to where to shelter, or what protective actions should be used in the response.

ABOUT SHELTER-IN-PLACE
There is a long tradition of using the term "Shelter-in-place" for a variety of hazards. While still in common use, the SRP suggests simply stating the hazard and providing a safety strategy.

A deep exploration of the FEMA website found over a dozen different scenarios where "Shelter-in-place" was advised. Two of the most common were for Tornado or Hazmat. Very different actions would be taken for those hazards. A single directive, "Shelter-in-place" doesn't provide the necessary information. "Tornado! Get to the storm shelter! " is more direct.

CUSTOMIZATION
The classroom poster is sufficient for generic Shelter guidance. The Foundation recognizes that localized hazards may need to be added to the poster. For this reason, the Public Address poster is available in MS Word for customization.