

Sheltering-in-Place During a Hurricane

Sheltering-in-Place is a standard protective action utilized in emergency management, most often during an accident or event in which hazardous materials have been released into the atmosphere, but also during dangerous conditions, when it is best to be indoors and not outside or on the road.

As a Hurricane is upon New England, state or local officials may instruct you to Shelter-in-Place. As with evacuations, you would be alerted in a variety of ways, including:

- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) - information provided on the radio and television.
- NOAA Weather Alert Radio and U.S. Coast Guard Marine Broadcast..
- Commercial News Media.
- Residential Route Alerting, which dispatches Public Safety vehicles through neighborhoods announcing messages with Public Address systems.

The following are steps to be taken only when instructed to 'Shelter-in-Place', not to be completed ahead of time:

- If instructed, you should immediately go indoors.
- Close and lock all doors and windows. Locking is preferred since it generally ensures that the door or window is shut tight.
- Close drapes, blinds and window shades and/or pre-drilled plywood sheets.
- Go to a room in the center of your home with the fewest windows and doors.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed during an emergency. Do not call your local fire or police departments for information. Emergency workers will need their lines for emergency use.
- Take your Family Disaster Kit (information available at the Hudson Fire Headquarters) to that location.
- Keep pets indoors. Make sure you have additional food and water supplies.
- If you have livestock, shelter them, also, with food and water.
- Continue to monitor your Emergency Alert Station and other Media for official messages and instructions.
- Stay inside until officials say otherwise.
- If you are in your vehicle and are advised to 'shelter-in-place', and are very close to home, your office or a public building, go there immediately.

For additional information go to www.mass.gov/mema.