

CITY OF WHARTON SHELTER IN PLACE RECOMENDATIONS

What is "Shelter-in-Place"?

In the event of a chemical release, safety sirens in the City of Wharton will sound to alert the public. If you hear the sirens, or are told to Shelter-in-Place, emergency officials recommend that you **Shelter, Shut and Listen**:

- Stay inside
- Close all windows and secure doors (locking provides a tighter seal).
- Turn off all ventilation systems such as heating or air conditioning.
- If there are gaps in windows or doors, seal with tape or damp towels.
- Have an AM radio for emergencies and tune to KULP 1390 AM for more information

How do you know when to Shelter-in-Place?

The City of Wharton has a [Community Warning System](#) in place that uses several tools to alert the public. If there is a chemical release with the potential to impact the community, the outdoor Safety Sirens located in the vicinity of the emergency will be sounded. The sirens will sound for about 3 minutes, and may be re-sounded periodically during the emergency. The sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30PM. Currently there are three sirens that service the City. They are located at Wilkes St. (by JM Plastics) at Milam St. (by Publics Works) and at Newton St. (by the Civic Center)

There are other Community Warning System tools to alert people in case of an emergency along with or in place of the Sirens. The Emergency Cable TV Interrupt System may be utilized to advise residents as to the nature of the emergency along with precautions and instructions to follow.



Shelter-in-Place advisories may be issued by emergency officials via the news media. Emergency officials recommend tuning an AM radio to KULP 1390.

The City of Wharton may utilize an emergency contact system provided by Connect-CTY to contact you by telephone, cell phone, email and text message. This system also provides for the hearing impaired. City residents can go to cityofwharton.com and add their main home or business phone number along with two additional phone numbers, email and text message information. Those city residents who do not have access to the internet can call city hall for assistance.

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What should we do during a chemical emergency?

If emergency officials recommend that people in your area Shelter-in-Place, you should stay inside and encourage customers, vendors, and others to do the same. Allow people from outside to Shelter-in-Place in your facility. Begin implementing your site emergency plan. For a Shelter-in-Place emergency, you will need to stay inside until the chemical leak has stopped and winds have dissipated any vapors in the vicinity.

Here are the recommended steps to Shelter-in-Place:

1. Advise everyone to stay inside.
Announce to everyone in the building that the City has issued a Shelter-in-Place advisory. Recommend that people not leave the building during this time unless specifically ordered to do so by police or fire personnel. Leaving the building could result in exposure to toxic chemical vapors.
2. Close all doors, windows and other sources of outside air.
Close and lock windows for a tighter seal. Control access doors (locking will provide a tighter seal). Post a "Shelter-in-Place in Effect – Controlled Access" sign in the window so that people outside will know you are closed and Sheltering-In-Place. If additional people want to enter to Shelter-in-Place, minimize the time the door is held open. Move others in the room away from the door that is opened. People who insist on leaving the building should be allowed to leave, but advise them it is at their own risk since emergency officials have issued a Shelter-in-Place advisory.
3. Turn off all air conditioning or heating systems
Your building's thermostats or air-handling cutoff switches should be labeled, and employees should be trained where they are located and how they work. Ceiling fans or portable fans can be used inside to keep cool while the ventilation system is shut down.
4. Turn on your AM radio to KULP 1390
Emergency officials in the City of Wharton recommend tuning to KULP 1390 for emergency information. Officials will be providing the news media with updated information on the locations that should continue to Shelter-in-Place. If you have a television available, Television stations may also provide news reports, and should scroll information during the event.
5. Stay off the telephone
the City of Wharton has a telephone emergency contact system that will begin calling numbers in the impacted area during a Shelter-in-Place emergency. Avoid using the phone so it is available to receive the informational call. Do not call 9-1-1 to get more information. Only call 9-1-1 if you need immediate assistance with a life-threatening emergency. Overloaded telephone circuits (including cellular phone calls) can prevent actual emergency calls from getting through.

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How long will the sirens sound?

The sirens will sound initially for about three minutes. They will continue to be resounded periodically if the event continues. Shelter-in-Place alerts are also broadcast over a Public Address system located at the siren tower sites.

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How will we know when the emergency is over?

City officials will announce the All Clear via the news media, so keep monitoring KULP 1390. There is no separate Safety Siren signal for All Clear. The sirens were not designed to be heard indoors. The City will also reactivate its telephone Emergency contact system to begin calling numbers in the impacted area with the All Clear message, but it may take a little while to call all numbers. If you have Internet access, you will be contacted by email if you have registered with the cities system.

After the All Clear is announced, Emergency Management officials recommend that you open your windows and doors and air out your building.

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When are the sirens tested?

The sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They only sound for about one minute during the test, but will sound for three minutes during a real event.

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