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(Contains adult themes and language)

# Emergency Personal Protection Guide

Contributed by Police Services

This Guide will help you be better prepared for an emergency affecting the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania..

- Learn what to do before, during, and after an emergency.
- Create a family emergency plan.
- Prepare an Emergency Go Kit.

## Protective Actions

Protective actions are steps we take to protect our family members and ourselves from harm. The two most common forms of emergency protective actions are shelter-in-place and evacuation. During and after an event, stay tuned to your local emergency radio or television station or listen to emergency personnel to know which protective action you should use.

### Shelter-In-Place

Shelter-in-place involves simply staying in your house or inside any other location. In the event of an emergency such as the release of a hazardous material, it is not always recommended to immediately evacuate. Leaving your house might expose you to harmful agents that have been dispersed into the air.

### Before An Emergency Strikes

It is necessary for you to learn about the things you can do to be prepared before an emergency occurs. Two actions that will help you do this are to develop an emergency plan, and an Emergency Go Kit.

### Create an Emergency Plan

In the Commonwealth we use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) during emergencies. When the decision is made to activate the EAS, original programming will be interrupted and an emergency message will be broadcast. It is important that you listen to the instructions. Emergencies may strike when your family members are away from home, so find out about plans at your workplace, school, or anywhere you and your family spend time. After creating a household emergency plan, you should take time to review it with your family every six months. Steps to take in creating a household emergency plan include:

- Meet with household members and discuss the dangers of possible emergency events, including fire, severe weather, hazardous spills, and terrorism.
- Discuss how you and your family will respond to each possible emergency.
- Discuss what to do in case of power outages or personal injuries.
- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- Teach adults how to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at main switches.

*If you do turn off natural gas service to your home, call your gas provider to restore service. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESTORE GAS SERVICE YOURSELF.***

- Post emergency contact numbers near all telephones, pre-program emergency numbers into phones with autodial capabilities.
- Teach children how and when to dial 911 to get emergency assistance.
- Teach children how to make long-distance telephone calls.
- Pick a friend or relative that all family members should call if separated. It is often easier to call out-of-state during an emergency than within the affected area.