



LA National Guard Emergency Management Bulletin

July 2019
Volume FY19 Issue 10



Purpose

The National Guard (NG) Emergency Management (EM) program is responsible for all activities and operations related to preparing for, mitigating the potential effect of, preventing, responding to, and recovering from all multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional emergencies on or impacting NG installations nationwide. The NG EM Program functions within an all-hazards environment consisting of all natural, technological (man-made), and terroristic hazards.

Vision

To provide the NG EM services when and where they are needed with the joint and interagency capacity necessary to effectively and efficiently protect the NG community and mission capabilities from all hazards.

Mission

To provide integrated and comprehensive NG EM services necessary to protect our community and mission capabilities from all hazards in a cost effective, implementable, and sustainable manner through resiliency.

LANG EM WEB PAGE:

<http://geauxguard.la.gov/resources/emergency-management/>



IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

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LTC Harry Wilson 318-382-4151
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LA National Guard Joint Operation
Center 888-278-8748

GOHSEP 225-925-7500

American Red Cross
1-800-RED-CROSS

Federal Emergency Management
Agency 1-800-621-FEMA

National Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

It's July and summer has arrived. This month's bulletin will focus on Shelter in Place procedures and Fireworks Safety. Summer means vacation, outdoor activities, and fun in the sun. It's a time when Families hit the road to visit national parks or distant relatives. The warm months and long days mean that there is plenty of time for baseball games and barbecues. The sultry temperature practically invites you to take a dip in the pool or ocean.

With summer comes warm weather and the desire to get outdoors for some fun. Summer also means vacation, outdoor activities, and 4th of July Fireworks! However, in their rush to enjoy the season, many people ignore the dangers that warm weather can bring.



I hope you find this information useful. Always Remember "Be Prepared".

Michael Green
Emergency Manager Program Coordinator
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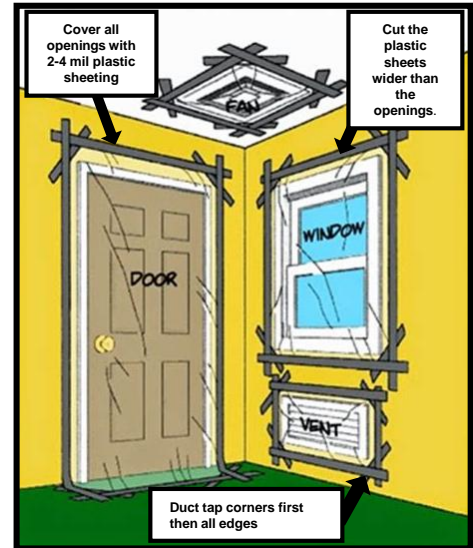
SHELTERING-IN-PLACE

What Shelter-in-Place Means:

One of the instructions you may be given in an emergency where hazardous materials may have been released into the atmosphere is to shelter-in-place. This is a precaution aimed to keep you safe while remaining indoors. (This is not the same thing as going to a shelter in case of a storm.) Shelter-in-place means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. It does not mean sealing off your entire home or office building. If you are told to shelter-in-place, follow the instructions provided in this Fact Sheet.

Why You Might Need to Shelter-in-Place:

Chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may be released accidentally or intentionally into the environment. Should this occur, information will be provided by local authorities on television and radio stations on how to protect you and your family. Because information will most likely be provided on television and radio, it is important to keep a TV or radio on, even during the workday. The important thing is for you to follow instructions of local authorities and know what to do if they advise you to shelter-in-place.



How to Shelter-in-Place

At Home:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- If you are told there is a danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your Family disaster supplies kit and make sure the radio is working.
- Go to an interior room without windows that's above ground level. In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air, and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.

- Bring your pets with you, and be sure to bring additional food and water supplies for them.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room you select. Call your emergency contact and have the phone available if you need to report a life threatening condition. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
- Keep listening to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

Shelter in Place in Four Easy Steps

If there is an outdoor release of hazardous chemicals that may contaminate the outside air or a tornado siren has been sounded, please do the following:

- 
Seek refuge inside a building and remain there.
- 
Ventilation systems will be turned off.
- 
Keep tuned to media, if possible.
- 
Wait for "all clear" from officials.



SHELTERING-IN-PLACE CONTINUED

At Work:

- Close the business.
- Bring everyone into the room(s). Shut and lock the door(s).
- If there are customers, clients, or visitors in the building, provide for their safety by asking them to stay – not leave. When authorities provide directions to shelter-in-place, they want everyone to take those steps now, where they are, and not drive or walk outdoors.
- Unless there is an imminent threat, ask employees, customers, clients, and visitors to call their emergency contact to let them know where they are and that they are safe.
- Turn on call-forwarding or alternative telephone answering systems or services. If the business has voice mail or an automated attendant, change the recording to indicate that the business is closed, and that staff and visitors are remaining in the building until authorities advise it is safe to leave.
- Close and lock all windows, exterior doors, and any other openings to the outside.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close the window shades, blinds, or curtains.
- Have employees familiar with your building’s mechanical systems turn off all fans, heating and air conditioning systems. Some systems automatically provide for exchange of inside air with outside air – these systems, in particular, need to be turned off, sealed, or disabled.
- Gather essential disaster supplies, such as nonperishable food, bottled water, battery-powered radios, first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, duct tape, plastic sheeting, and plastic garbage bags.
- Select interior room(s) above the ground floor, with the fewest windows or vents. The room(s) should have adequate space for everyone to be able to sit in. Avoid overcrowding by selecting several rooms if necessary. Large storage closets, utility rooms, pantries, copy and conference rooms without exterior windows will work well. Avoid selecting a room with mechanical equipment like ventilation blowers or pipes, because this equipment may not be able to be sealed from the outdoors.
- It is ideal to have a hard-wired telephone in the room(s) you select. Call emergency contacts and have the phone available if you need to report a life-threatening condition. Cellular telephone equipment may be overwhelmed or damaged during an emergency.
- Use duct tape and plastic sheeting (heavier than food wrap) to seal all cracks around the door(s) and any vents into the room.
- Write down the names of everyone in the room, and call your business’ designated emergency contact to report who is in the room with you, and their affiliation with your business (employee, visitor, client, customer.)
- Keep listening to the radio or television until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate. Local officials may call for evacuation in specific areas at greatest risk in your community.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

If You Hear the Warning Sirens..

- 1. Go inside. Verify emergency. Turn on local radio.**
- 2. Close all windows and doors.**
- 3. Turn off furnace/ air conditioner/ exhaust fans/ close fireplace dampers.**
- 4. Enter and seal a smaller room. Seal doors and windows with duct tape or wet cloths. Breathe through a wet towel to filter the air.**
- 5. Continue to listen to radio for further instructions. Keep phone lines free.**

Unless told to do so by authorities:

- DO NOT evacuate or travel.
- DO NOT bring home children from school, or other family members from work.
- DO NOT call 911 or any other authority for information.



SHELTERING-IN-PLACE CONTINUED

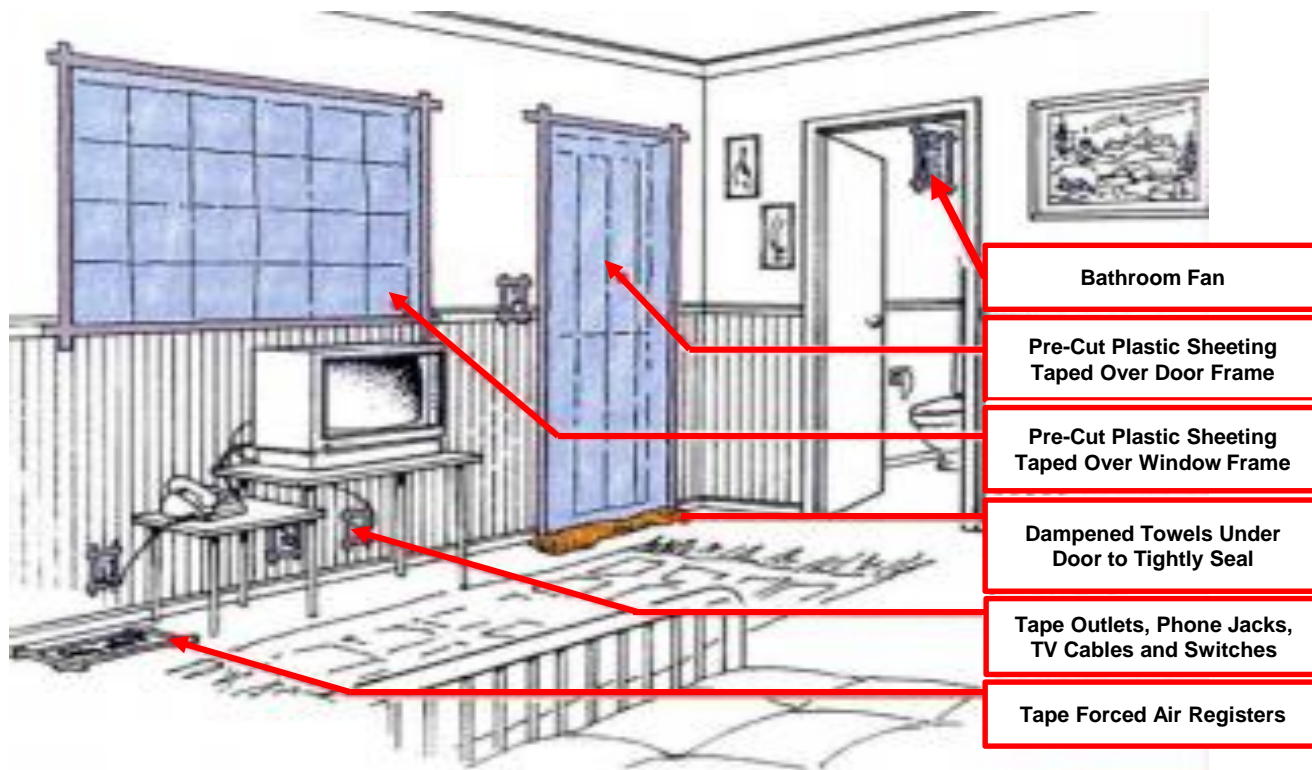
In Your Vehicle:

If you are driving a vehicle and hear advice to “shelter-in-place” on the radio, take these steps:

- If you are very close to home, your office, or a public building, go there immediately and go inside. Follow the shelter-in-place recommendations for the place you pick described above.
- If you are unable to get to a home or building quickly and safely, then pull over to the side of the road. Stop your vehicle in the safest place possible. If it is sunny outside, it is preferable to stop under a bridge or in a shady spot, to avoid being overheated.
- Turn off the engine. Close windows and vents.
- If possible, seal the heating/air conditioning vents with duct tape.
- Listen to the radio regularly for updated advice and instructions.
- Stay where you are until you are told it is safe to get back on the road. Be aware that some roads may be closed or traffic detoured. Follow the directions of law enforcement officials.

Local officials on the scene are the best source of information for your particular situation. Following their instructions during and after emergencies regarding sheltering, food, water, and clean up methods is your safest choice.

Remember that instructions to shelter-in-place are usually provided for durations of a few hours, not days or weeks. There is little danger that the room in which you are taking shelter will run out of oxygen and you will suffocate.





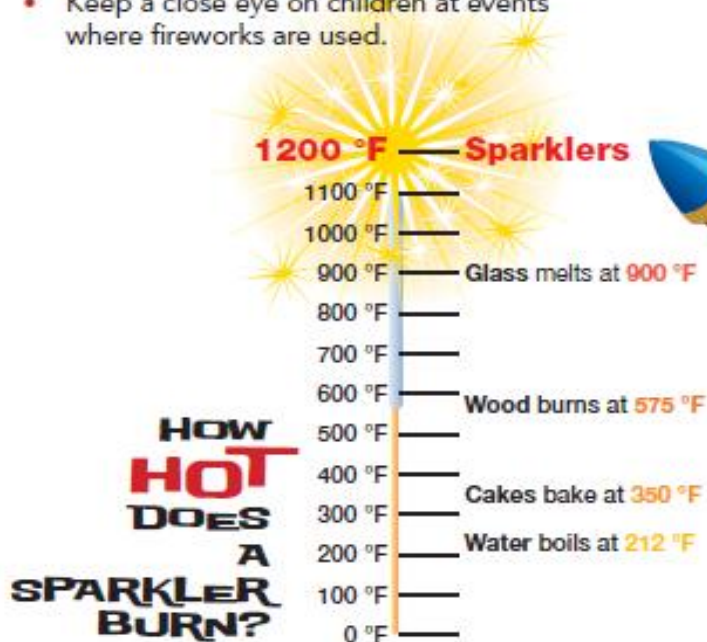
Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. However, they are not safe in the hands of consumers. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year. People can enjoy fireworks safely if they follow a few simple safety tips:

BE CAREFUL!

- Be safe. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.
- Do not use consumer fireworks.
- Keep a close eye on children at events where fireworks are used.

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

NFPA is opposed to consumer use of fireworks. This includes sparklers and firecrackers. Even sparklers burn hot enough to cause third-degree burns.



FACTS

- ✓ More than 16,000 reported fires are started by fireworks annually.
- ✓ Sparklers account for roughly one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards.





FIREWORKS



Each year, fireworks injure thousands and cause thousands of fires.

Fireworks cause an estimated **18,500** reported fires in the U.S. each year.

U.S. hospital emergency rooms saw an estimated 12,900 people for fireworks-related injuries in 2017.



Fireworks Injuries by Body Part

Eye
14%

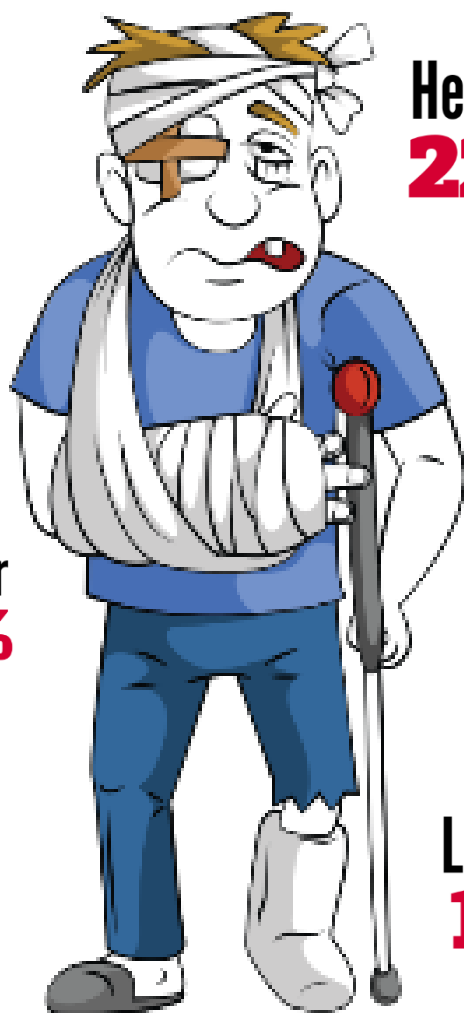
Arm
6%

Hand or Finger
31%

Head, Face or Ear
22%

Trunk or Other
10%

Leg
17%

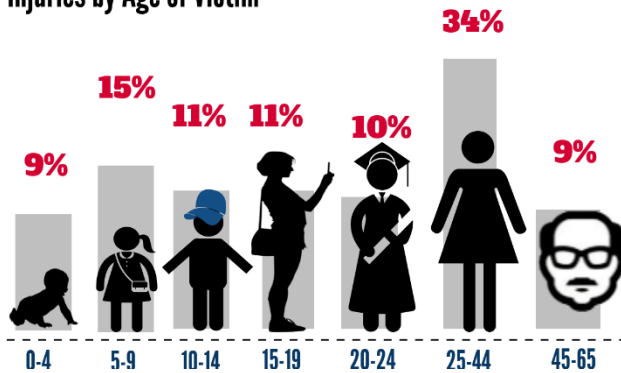




Fireworks Injuries: Demographics

Sparklers alone account for more than one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.

Injuries by Age of Victim



MALES ACCOUNT FOR **70%** OF FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURIES

However, children aged 5-9 are actually **more than twice** as likely as other age groups to be injured by fireworks when looking at relative risk based on population totals of each age group.

About 2 in 5 fires started by fireworks each year, are reported on Independence Day.

Be safe. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.

For more information, please visit: www.nfpa.org/fireworks



National Fire Protection Association
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

*Information sourced from CPSC, and NFPA's "Fireworks Report"



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JULY EVENTS

| | | |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 4 July | National Holiday | |
| 12-14 July | Cajun Posse Cowboy Mounted Shootings | DeRidder |
| 19-20 July | Cajun Music and food Festival | Lake Charles |
| 19-20 July | Southwest LA Hot Air Balloon Festival | Lake Charles |
| 26-27 July | 53 rd Annual LA Watermelon Festival | Farmerville |

Message from OPSEC

