

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Shelter-in-Place, or SIP, orders are sometimes given by the fire department immediately following some hazardous liquid spills or gas releases.

WHY NOT JUST EVACUATE?

If local officials order SIP, it is due to conditions being too hazardous to allow evacuation. Trying to evacuate during a SIP event would likely lead to injury or death.

HAS THIS BEEN USED BEFORE?

SIP orders have been used successfully all over the country. SIP has also been used in Columbia County for some gas leaks, all with no injuries to citizens. It has been proven to be very safe when done properly and typically last less than one hour.

HOW WILL I BE TOLD OF SIP ORDERS?

You may be instructed of a SIP order by emergency responders, radio or television news stations, NOAA “all-hazards” alert radios, or through the Columbia Alert Network (also known as CAN).

CAN makes emergency notifications to all landline phones in a given area to warn them of emergency orders. If your cell phone or internet phone is not registered, you may not receive these vital alerts! Sign them up today by calling [503-397-7255](tel:503-397-7255), ext. 2224 or by visiting www.columbia911.com.

How to shelter-in-place:

If ordered to shelter-in-place, here is what you need to do:

- DO NOT EVACUATE!
- Shut and lock all doors and windows.
- Turn off all air conditioners and furnaces at home (for businesses or larger facilities, this is the HVAC system)
- If you have an older house or facility with open vents or cracks around doors and windows, you may need to use duct tape and plastic to prevent hazardous gases from coming through those openings. Keep some on hand in case.
- Stay where you are at and listen for further instructions from officials.