

City of McKinney Office of Emergency Management



Before, During, and After a Radiological Attack

Before a Radiological Attack

- Make a list of your own potential shelters near your home, workplace, or school. Places to start looking include basements or the windowless center of a middle floor.
- If you live in an apartment or high rise, talk to the manager about the safest place in the building for sheltering.
- Check and restock your emergency supply kit.
- Learn the difference between the two different types of shelters for a bombing situation. Sheltering is absolutely necessary during an RDD event.
 - Blast Shelter: These are specifically constructed to offer some protection against blast pressure, initial radiation, heat, and fire.
 - Fallout Shelter: These do not need to be specifically constructed for protecting against fallout. They can be any protected space, granted the walls and roof are thick enough to absorb the radiation given off by fallout particles.

During a Radiological Attack

- Avoid or limit exposure as much as possible. The explosive blast will be obvious immediately, but the radiation will not be.

If you are outside:

- Seek shelter indoors at the nearest undamaged building immediately.
- Until a shelter is available, move upwind as quickly as possible.
- Listen for official instructions and follow directions.

If you are indoors:

- Retrieve your emergency supply kit and bring it with you to your shelter room.
- Seek shelter immediately, underground or in the most centrally located room of a building, placing as much distance between you and the outdoors.
- If you have time, turn off ventilation systems, close windows, vents, fireplace dampers, exhaust fans, and dryer vents.
- Seal windows and external doors with duct tape to reduce infiltration of radioactive materials. Plastic sheeting will not provide shielding from radioactivity or blast effects.
- Listen to your NOAA Weather Radio or local radio for official instructions and follow directions.

After a Radiological Attack

- If you have been exposed, begin the decontamination process. Remove your clothing and seal it in a plastic bag. Shower thoroughly with soap and water. Seek medical attention immediately after officials say it is safe to leave shelters.
- Continue listening to your local news source via radio or television.
- Do not return to or visit an RDD attack location for any reason.