



Shelter in Place & Lockdowns

Get all resources and full guides
at go.sjsu.edu/emergency

Shelter in Place

When an external issue is identified and the threat is not in the immediate building or facility, authorities may issue an order to “shelter in place” which means “go indoors and stay inside”.

The issue may or may not be an immediate human threat. Shelter in Place orders are usually issued for:

- Natural disasters or environmental conditions: bad air quality due to fire; heavy storms; etc.
- Hazardous material spills, leaks or transport through the area.

Shelter in Place may not require additional security precautions beyond this:

- Follow authorities’ directions, e.g., close windows and doors for environmental issues; close windows and switch ventilation to recirculating mode.
- Locking and barricading doors will typically not be advised while sheltering in place.
- Continue as usual: there is no need to reduce volume, turn off lights, lock doors or deny others entry unless explicitly directed to do so by authorities.
- Wait for directions from authorities or AlertSJSU when it is safe to leave or move.

Lockdown

This safety measure takes the principles of Shelter in Place and elevates the security response to prevent injuries or loss of life due to a human threat.

Lockdown orders may be issued for:

- Active assailant: armed suspect, current acts of violence, etc.

Lockdown orders may require:

- Going indoors immediately: closing and locking doors (barricading doors if the threat is nearby and/or first responders say to do so); turning off lights and reducing volume; closing windows and blinds and moving to secure portions of a room or area (behind furniture, into more interior rooms); silencing phones and pausing all non-essential activity.
- Restricting entry and exit of buildings unless told differently by authorities.

Both situations will require staying updated on instructions from authorities. Keep devices close to receive texts and other notifications from AlertSJSU.



Download the Spartan Safe
mobile app

SJSU | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT