

Emergency Sheltering Playbook

This playbook provides the necessary steps for exploring and understanding different emergency sheltering options available during natural disasters. It outlines how to be prepared and what to expect when utilizing such shelters.

Step 1: **Research**

Gather information on the types of emergency shelters available in your area, such as public shelters operated by the government, community shelters like schools or community centers, and shelters offered by local non-profit organizations.

Step 2: **Location**

Locate the emergency shelters closest to you and learn the routes to get there. Consider different modes of transportation and account for possible disruptions due to the disaster.

Step 3: **Preparation**

Prepare an emergency kit to take with you to the shelter, including necessities such as water, non-perishable food, medications, clothing, and important documents.

Step 4: **Registration**

If required, pre-register for a spot at your chosen shelter, especially if you have special needs or pets. Some shelters may have specific requirements, so ensure you meet them ahead of time.

Step 5: **Safety Plan**

Create a personal safety plan in case you need to evacuate quickly to a shelter. This plan should include communication strategies with family members and a meeting point if you get separated.

Step 6: **Stay Informed**

Keep updated with local news and official announcements for instructions on when and if to evacuate to a shelter. Follow official advice and do not rely solely on unofficial sources.

Step 7: **Shelter Etiquette**

Understand and respect the rules of the shelter you are using. This may include quiet hours, areas for pets, designated eating areas, and restrictions on personal belongings.

General Notes

Special Needs

If you or a family member has special needs, contact your local emergency management agency to inquire about accommodations in shelters, such as access to medical equipment, dietary requirements, or assistance for the hearing and visually impaired.

Pet Care

Not all shelters accept pets, so plan ahead for pet-friendly shelters or make alternative arrangements for the care of your animals during the disaster.

Volunteering

Consider volunteering at a shelter to help others. Contact the shelter organizations in advance to train and prepare for the roles they need during emergencies.

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