



CIVILIAN SHELTERS FOR ARMY PERSONNEL

In the event of an emergency, plans and procedures are in place to direct evacuation or movement to shelters. When time permits, the preferred protective strategy for nonessential and nonemergency personnel is evacuation, but in emergencies with only a moderate warning time, installation authorities may direct people to local, state or host-nation shelters.

Shelters

A shelter is a publicly identified, certified, supplied, staffed and insured mass care facility where endangered people can find temporary protection for a limited time. Army regions and installations do not develop, maintain and operate certified shelters. Instead, regions and installations coordinate shelter needs with appropriate state, local, host-nation and private agencies. The American Red Cross is the principal U.S. resource for development, management and operation of certified shelters.

Certified shelters within the local community are preferred over safe haven facilities on an installation. Plans are coordinated with local authorities and may include provision for food, water, medicines and security. If you are directed to take shelter in a mass care facility operated by a disaster relief organization, there are a few things you should know:

- Even though mass care shelters often provide water, food, medicine and basic sanitary facilities, you should plan to take an **emergency supply kit** with you.
- Alcoholic beverages, weapons and smoking are prohibited in all shelters. Ask in advance if your local shelter allows pets.
- Mass care facilities can involve living with many people in close proximity, so it is important to cooperate with local shelter managers and others assisting them.

How to Prepare

Authorities may direct post-event evacuation or movement to long-term shelters, remote safe havens or a designated place away from the affected area. No matter which type or size of mass care facility you move to—

- It is vital to **get in advance and take along an emergency supply kit** that can sustain your family for at least three days.
- A **family emergency plan**, including an emergency communication procedure, will prepare you to cope with possible separation of family members.
- Once you are in a safe place, **report to your command** if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

Prepare Strong

The Army encourages all personnel to maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about what might happen.

It is your responsibility to understand the mass warning system at your installation and, when notified, be prepared for the following:

- Evacuation
- **Moving to civilian shelter**
- Moving to designated safe haven
- Temporarily sheltering-in-place



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