

Shelter Fact Sheet

Prepared by the N.D. Department of Human Services

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*Shelters are intended to provide a safe temporary haven for people displaced by a disaster. Emergency Planners often establish **different types of shelters**:*

- **General Population Shelter** - Typically staffed by the American Red Cross volunteers or other non-profit entities
- **Supportive Cares Shelter** - Staffed by human services staff and private service providers to serve individuals who require greater assistance than is available at a General Population Shelter, but who do not meet the needs identified for sheltering in a Medical Shelter
- **Medical Shelter** - Staffed by medical professionals and non-medical volunteers to accommodate individuals with medical conditions that require intermittent medical observation, assessment, or treatment, but do not require hospitalization

Finding and Getting to a Shelter:

- Listen to the **News**. Consider signing up for the **disaster phone notification system** if your city has one. **Community Web sites** may also list shelter information.
- If an evacuation order is issued, a **Reception Center** may be established.

At Reception Centers:

- People **register**
- People can find out about **shelter locations** and can **access phones**
- Reception Center staff will **assess needs** (transportation, gas, etc.) and **connect people to needed resources including transportation to shelters**

Special Needs Ride Service:

- Emergency Planners may establish a Hotline that people with disabilities can call if they need transportation to evacuate. **LISTEN to Local Media for HOTLINE numbers.**

About Shelters:

- They are usually set up in schools, churches, and community buildings, and are staffed by Red Cross and other agency volunteers.
- People staying at shelters and shelter staff must register and may be asked to participate in a background check.
- Shelters tend to be crowded. Please have patience because there may be lines to use restrooms and to get food, and it may be noisy.

What to bring to a Shelter:

- Government issued photo **ID** (such as driver's license)
- **Medications** (in original bottles)
- **Medical support equipment** (wheelchairs, bandages/dressings, feeding equipment, oxygen, etc.) *NOTE: People with oxygen tanks must notify Reception Center and Shelter staff.*
- Food for special dietary needs and nonperishable foods for snacks
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, deodorant, contact lens solution, etc.)
- Name and phone numbers of your doctor, home health agency, hospital, and next of kin
- Extra clothes
- Blankets or sleeping bags, and pillows
- Baby formula and diapers for infants
- Special items for elderly family members
- Games or toys for children
- Books or cards for adults
- Radio, flashlight, and spare batteries
- Cash for purchases after a disaster
- **Shelters do NOT allow smoking, guns, alcohol, or pets.**

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Pets:

- More often than not, only **Service Animals are allowed** at shelters
- Emergency Planners may have set up special temporary shelters for pets (may exclude exotic pets)

Planning for Your Pets:

- Have a pet porter/portable kennel large enough for your pet
- Pet Food
- Vaccination Record (*specifically Rabies*)
- Leash
- Bedding
- Owner's Contact Information

Locating Loved Ones:

- People displaced by evacuations may need help connecting with family and friends.
- They can register on-line as “safe and well” and can search for others who have registered at the American Red Cross Web site: <https://disastersafe.redcross.org/>
- Those without Internet access, can call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) to register.