



The First Ten Plays

Finding Shelter from Disasters*

- Know the risks in your environment. That will give you the best means of developing an escape route to safe shelter.
- Your officials may warn you to shelter in place (SIP) through your Emergency Alert System station (EAS) and possibly through your NOAA Weather Radio. Staying in your home or office may be the safest place to be until the threat has passed. Here is guidance from the Red Cross:
<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/shelterinplace.pdf>
- Have an evacuation plan ready. Take your Go Kits and your communications information with you, which should include identification. Be prepared to take alternative routes if needed. If you can't reach your primary safe haven, consider alternates (someone else on your contact list, a hotel, camping grounds, or staying inside your car).
- Listen for the EAS announcements for shelters. Use the map from your Go Kit to find these shelters. They may not always be American Red Cross Shelters. They may also be shelters run by government or other non-profits, by religious centers, or even by your corporation.
- Understand the threats from weather. Listen to the NOAA Weather radio and your EAS station. You must ensure that you are protected from exposure to extreme temperatures, hail, rain, high winds, and lightning.
- If you go to an American Red Cross Shelter even for a short time be sure to register so someone knows you are okay and where you are going.
- If you have a mobility limitation, ensure you have planned for both SIP and for evacuation to a safe haven—preferably a like facility for your care.
- If you are in temporary shelter and cannot return to your original residence, seek out assistance from a local shelter to find community assistance. There will be people there to connect you to help.
- Ensure that you have continued water, food, and hygiene support to protect your health under stress, no matter where you shelter.
- Maintain contact with family, friends or officials so they know where you are sheltering. Use the EAS station to listen for an “all safe” for your return to your residence, or for leaving your residence after sheltering in place.

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** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*