SHELTER IN DISASTERS

HOW TO PREPARE:

There may be situations, depending on circumstances and type of disaster, when it’s best to stay where you are and avoid going outside. The safest place to seek shelter varies by hazard. Find out which disasters are more likely to occur in your area and have plans for each. Choose a shelter in your home or another building that is safe for that hazard.

- **TORNADO** – room should be in a basement or an interior room on lowest level that is away from corners, windows, doors, and exterior walls.
- **FLOODING** – evacuate before the flood arrives. If you wait to evacuate, you could get caught in the hazard.
- **EARTHQUAKE** – once shaking has stopped, go outside. Do not return until building is deemed safe for entry.

Essential Items:
- Food and water – pack in a duffel bag in the event you need to get out quick.

MAKING A PLAN

Planning and preparing shelter is extremely important factor for individuals and families during emergencies.

Use these tips to create a shelter plan for you and your family.

- **The duration of time you are required to shelter can vary greatly. It is important that you stay in shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave.**

STAYING AT HOME

- Bring family and pets inside
- Lock doors, close windows, air vents, and fire place dampers.
- Turn off fans, AC, and forced air heating systems.
- Use your emergency supply kit unless you think it could be contaminated.
- Go to an interior room with few windows, if possible.
- If a hazardous material incident, seal all windows, doors and air vents with 2-4 mil. thick plastic sheeting and duct tape.
- Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps and create a barrier.

MASS CARE SHELTER

Mass care shelters are not always activated during an emergency. Be prepared to find alternative shelter with family, neighbors, or in a hotel.

- Mass care shelters often provide water, food and medicine and basic sanitary facilities, but you should still plan to take a disaster supply kit so you are individually prepared.
- To avoid conflicts in this stressful living situation, it is important to cooperate with shelter managers.
- Alcoholic beverages and weapons are forbidden in emergency shelters and smoking is restricted.
- Most care shelters will not allow pets. Make a plan for pet shelter.