



Civilian Shelters for Navy Personnel

Preparedness Empowers You It saves lives, property, and time.

Emergencies happen, often with little or no notice. By taking action beforehand you can be prepared for any emergency.

Be Ready Navy! I am. Are you?

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

- » Evacuation—Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)
- » Moving to designated safe haven
- » **Moving to civilian shelter**
- » Temporarily sheltering-in-place

In the event of an emergency, Navy Regional and Installation emergency management organizations have plans and procedures 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 advance warning, installation authorities may direct people to local, state, or host-nation shelters.

Shelters

A shelter is a publicly identified, certified, supplied, staffed, and insured civilian facility where the endangered population may seek temporary protection for a limited duration. Navy regions and Installations do not develop, maintain, or 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 onboard an installation.

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 kit with you.
- Alcoholic beverages, weapons, and smoking are prohibited in all shelters.
- 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.
- Depending on the situation and regulations of the safe haven, pets may or may not be allowed, so ask the Installation Emergency Manager for clarification and/or restrictions if you are unclear. Ensure that you address the needs of your pets while at the safe haven by bringing enough food and water to support their stay.

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How to Prepare

- 1 Be **informed**. Navy personnel with NMCI or OneNet access must self-register all home phones, cellular phones, and email addresses, etc. in the Wide Area Alert Network (WAAN) to receive notifications wherever they are.
- 2 Take time to identify shelters in your area before an emergency. FEMA offers a mobile app that locates shelters in your area. Download the app to your phone.
- 3 Make a written family **emergency plan**, including an emergency communication plan. It will prepare you to cope with possible separation of family members.
- 4 Build in advance and take along an **emergency kit** that can sustain your family for at least three days.
- 5 Once you are in a safe place, muster with your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.