

## EVACUATION SHELTER

DESCRIPTION	An Evacuation Shelter serves the general population in an existing facility (or facilities), such as a school, community center, convention center, or church that the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) has temporarily converted for use as a shelter for disaster survivors.		
RESOURCE CATEGORY	Mass Care Services	RESOURCE KIND	Facility
OVERALL FUNCTION	An Evacuation Shelter: 1. Provides for the immediate needs of disaster survivors, typically for less than 72 hours 2. Provides basic life-sustaining services until the threat has passed, or until shelter residents transfer or transition to a Short-Term Shelter, including: a. Dormitory b. Basic food items or snacks c. Hydration d. Basic medical care e. Sanitation f. Disaster-related information	COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	1. The AHJ estimates the shelter resident capacity required and determines the facility accessibility requirements to support people with disabilities, access and functional support needs, and those with service and assistance animals 2. Facility planning considerations include estimating the maximum number of shelter residents expected and identifying a safe, accessible, and secure structure not at risk from an anticipated disaster 3. An Evacuation Shelter has a variety of staffing, equipment, and material resources 4. The requestor typically sources staffing for Evacuation Shelters locally; refer to the Sheltering Guidance Aid and Staffing Matrix on the National Mass Care Strategy (NMCS) website for sample staffing ratios 5. For equipment and material ordering guidance refer to the FEMA Commonly Used Sheltering Items & Services Listing (CUSI-SL)

RESOURCE TYPES			TYPE 1	TYPE 2	TYPE 3	TYPE 4
COMPONENT	METRIC/ MEASURE	CAPABILITY				
Facility	Per Facility	Shelter Residents	2,000 or more	500 - 1,999	250 - 499	249 or fewer
			<b>NOTES:</b> Not Specified			
Facility	Per Facility	Area	Over 80,000 sq. ft.	20,000 - 80,000 sq. ft.	10,000 - 20,000 sq. ft.	Under 10,000 square feet (sq. ft.)
			<b>NOTES:</b> 1. Calculate dormitory space for Evacuation Shelters using an average of 20 sq. ft. per shelter resident. Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-related reasonable accommodation requirements may necessitate additional dormitory space for shelter residents with disabilities, access and functional needs, and those with service and assistance animals. 2. Other shelter activities and support areas may need additional space. 3. A potential shelter site may meet the general space and access needs, but may need supplemental sanitation capabilities, such as toilets and hand-washing stations.			

Superseded

## COMMENTS

1. These shelters are facilities that can accommodate survivors, including people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs that require supportive services to maintain their independence while accessing the shelter, its programs, and services.
2. Shelters must meet the accessibility requirements under the ADA; however, in certain circumstances where adequate space is not initially available, the AHJ can use a non-compliant facility if the AHJ makes reasonable and timely modifications to make it accessible.
3. Planning considerations should include support services for mental, behavioral, and psychosocial health.
4. FEMA and American Red Cross National Shelter System (NSS) databases can inventory and track Evacuation Shelter facility information.

## REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Access and Functional Needs Advisor
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Fixed Site Security Team Supervisor
3. FEMA, NIMS 508: Public Health and Medical Team in a Shelter
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Shelter Facilities Support Team Leader
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Shelter Manager
6. FEMA, NIMS 508: Shelter Management Team
7. FEMA, NIMS 509: Shelter Resident Services Team Leader
8. FEMA, Commonly Used Sheltering Items & Services Listing, August 2011
9. FEMA, Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters, November 2010
10. National Mass Care Council, Shelter Guidance Aid and Shelter Staffing Matrix, October 2010
11. National Mass Care Council, Multi-Agency Sheltering/Sheltering Support Planning Template, October 2014
12. US Department of Justice, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Checklist for Emergency Shelters, July 2007
13. US Department of Justice, Guidance on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, September 2010

## NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

**Superseded**