

SAFE PLACES

GUIDELINE FOR THOSE OFFERING SHELTER IN SEVERE EVENTS

Thank you for considering your organization to join the Safe Places program to open your doors and offer those with vulnerable housing an area to seek refuge. Here are some recommendations from FEMA, the International Code Council and the NWS.

KEEP IN MIND

- The lowest level of the building is usually the safest
 - Below ground space is almost always the safest, basement is best
- It is recommended to have 5 sq. ft. per person
- Minimal or no glass windows
- Short span roofs are more likely to remain intact (approximately 25 feet or less is best)
- Check outdoor hazards such as large trees, poles and towers that may fall
- The ICC does require at least one bathroom, a first aid kit & proper exit signs that would work even in a power outage
 - Water is not something you must provide

AVOID THESE

- Long span roofs because they are more susceptible to uplift
- Lightweight roofs (steel deck, gypsum, wood plank, plywood)
- Heavier roofs (precast concrete planks, channels, tees)
- Windows
 - Extreme winds and debris thrown can break or pop out windows. Windows at the end of corridors can be blown down the corridor
- Unprotected corridors can turn into wind tunnels if facing oncoming winds Try baffling these entrances with a solid, massive wall
- Masonry walls without vertical reinforcements are potentially hazardous, along with load bearing walls

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

If you are still unsure, you can request a visit from the local National Weather Service office to double check your building as a 'Safe Place'.

NWS Nashville (615) 754-8500

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