



# Civilian Shelters

In the event of an emergency, Marine Corps 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

## How to Prepare

- 1 **Stay informed.** ALL Marines (active duty and Reserve), civil service, and contractor personnel with a NIPR computer account—verify and update official contact information populated in the Marine Corps Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS) by information found in the Global Address List (GAL), and self-register all cell phones, home phone, email addresses, etc. in eMNS. Registration of personal information enhances Marine Corps Installations' ability to rapidly provide emergency information and changes to the base's operating status during non-working hours and wherever you 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.

## 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. Marine Corps 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.

## How You Will Be Notified

Marine Corps Installations (worldwide) use the Marine Corps Mass Notification System (MCMNS) as an effective and reliable mass notification system to maximize the potential to warn and direct affected personnel during a crisis through multiple systems:

- Giant Voice (GV)—A voice announcing system using exterior speakers, commonly termed "Giant Voice"

- Interior Voice (IV)—Interior speakers or sirens within individual buildings
- Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS)—An interactive, community notification system capable of providing voice and/or data messages to multiple, designated receivers

*NOTE: eMNS is only as effective as the data you provide. You must register your personal information to receive notices after hours and away from the office on personal devices.*

**Set your own course through any hazard: stay informed, make a plan, build a kit. Live Ready Marine Corps.**