



Shelter Terminology

ADRN wants to give you clarity and understanding of the different types of shelters that are offered through the CASHP system and the American Red Cross. Please use this document as a reference tool to teach volunteers the terminology.

There are two types of public shelters, often referred to as “first wave” shelters. These shelters are opened first whether evacuees flood into our city or a tornado strikes locally and many families are displaced:

1. **Evacuation Shelter** – These shelters are opened by the CASHP team (City of Austin Office of Emergency Management (OEM), surrounding counties OEM, Central Texas School Safety Consortium (public schools) and the American Red Cross). These shelters are typically schools, recreational centers, Burger Activity Center, Delco Center, and the Austin Convention Center. They are only opened for evacuees coming into greater Austin. Each Evacuation Shelter can hold up to 500 – 1,000 people (one person per 20 square feet). Red Cross does not hand out blankets or cots for these shelters. People are told to bring their pillows, blankets, etc.. Evacuation Shelter managers need to be trained through CASHP.
2. **Disaster Shelter** – These shelters are opened by the American Red Cross (ARC) and are usually in a church facility and/or recreational center. ARC will open these shelters only when there has been a local disaster (i.e. tornado, flood, fire, etc..). Red Cross will provide cots, blankets and food for these shelters. Each Disaster Shelter can hold up to 100 people (one person per 40 square feet). Disaster Shelter managers need to be trained by ARC.

Note: If your church “adopts a shelter” – it will be managed by your churches predetermined trained volunteers whether an evacuation or disaster shelter.

The next type of shelter is called an Intermediate Shelter, often called “2nd wave” shelter because it is opened once the 1st wave shelters are closed. Typically after 3-5 days:

1. **Intermediate Shelter (Red Cross Partner Shelter or Interim Shelter)** – This type of shelter will be opened by the American Red Cross. It is used only if a national, regional or local disaster is severe enough where families will be displaced for more than 3-5 days, whether evacuees or locals. The Intermediate Shelter will typically be a local church facility or other predetermined space that can occupy and accommodate people in the event of a disaster. The Intermediate Shelter can be opened up to 4 weeks. ARC will predetermine the capacity of an Intermediate Shelter through an inspection of the facility.

If the disaster is declared a national disaster, FEMA will provide financial assistance to help families relocate to hotels or apartments.