

ESP FOCUS

Plan for Shelter



WHY?

The magnitude 6.7 Northridge Earthquake of January 17, 1994 damaged more than 11,300 residential buildings, forcing almost 44,000 people to stay in shelters set up by the American Red Cross and Salvation Army.

A similar earthquake centered in an area with a higher population could severely damage even more residential buildings as the modeling estimates in the table below show:

Earthquake Damage	Elsinore Fault	Rose Canyon Fault	Santa Ynez Fault	Sierra Madre Fault
None	3.3m	3.5m	2.1m	1.5m
Slight	50,781	30,298	13,610	79,562
Moderate	160,941	124,443	61,210	321,654
Extensive	419,700	260,248	174,122	676,062

m - million

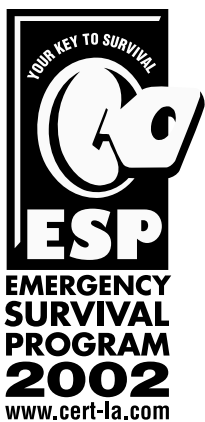
Damage to Residential Structures

What would residents in your neighborhood do for housing if they were unable to return to their homes?

What would you do if an earthquake or other emergency forced you and the people you know to remain at work or school for several hours or days?

This ESP Focus Sheet provides information that will help you find other shelter options. Planning for emergency shelter is the next step in getting ready for future earthquakes or other disasters.

Future ESP Focus Sheets will show other aspects of developing your emergency plan and response program.



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N O V E M B E R

Select a Shelter Team

The Planning Committee and the Block Captain should identify members of the Shelter Team.

The Shelter Team will be responsible for finding alternate shelter for those who are unable to remain in their homes, businesses or schools.

Before the next earthquake, the Shelter Team should develop a strategy that identifies:

- A post-earthquake meeting place
- Potential Red Cross shelters
- Alternate modes of shelter
- Transportation sources

Post-earthquake Meeting Places

The Shelter Team should identify a place where displaced people can meet after an earthquake. The location can serve as a pickup point to provide transportation to Red Cross shelters, relatives' homes or other housing sites. Possible meeting places include large open areas and large buildings that are unlikely to have suffered damage.

Red Cross Shelters

Congress has given the Red Cross the responsibility for establishing and operating shelters after disasters. It is important to note, however, that although the Red Cross has listings of designated sites for shelters, some of them might not be useable. After an earthquake, inspections by building officials are necessary to ensure the buildings are safe for use as a shelter. This process could take up to 72 hours. Once potential sites are selected by the Red Cross, communities will be notified through the media. Before the next earthquake, your shelter leader should meet with representatives from your local Office of Emergency Services and Red Cross chapter to discuss policies. For example, with the exception of seeing eye dogs, animals are prohibited from Red Cross shelters.

What to Expect at a Red Cross Shelter

The Red Cross provides mass shelter for disaster victims in facilities such as schools, churches, and auditoriums. Resources provided at Red Cross shelters include:

- Meals
- Physical and mental health services
- Information
- Personal hygiene items
- Bottled water

Persons deciding to stay at a Red Cross shelter should be prepared to bring bedding, personal medications and other special needs items with them.

Alternate Shelter Sites

Not everyone who is displaced can or may want to stay in a shelter setting. The Shelter Team should identify alternatives. Other possible housing sites might include:

- Homes of relatives
- Unoccupied rooms in undamaged buildings
- Parking lots
- Playgrounds

Facilities for Pets

Pets are prohibited from staying in Red Cross shelters. The Shelter Team should work with representatives of your local Office of Emergency Services, Department of Animal Regulation, Humane Society or Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to identify pet shelters.

Transportation Sources

The Shelter Team should identify those who might not be able to transport themselves to a shelter and develop a list of persons who can provide transportation.



This action sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase emergency preparedness at home, in the community, at work and at school. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Southern California cities and counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.