

12 Months of Preparedness

6. Shelter in a Disaster

Shelter, along with food and water, is a basic element of disaster preparedness. Shelter is needed for physical protection and, in some cases, isolation. Different disaster types or emergency conditions require taking shelter. The time needed to stay sheltered will vary in duration according to the type of event: tornadoes or weather events may be short term, whereas a pandemic, wildfire or earthquake may require many weeks or longer. It is important in any disaster to stay informed and follow the instructions of local authorities.

Following are the types of shelter that may be needed in a disaster situation:

Stay-at-Home – This method should be familiar due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Remain indoors as much as possible and try to leave your home only when necessary.

Mass Care Shelters – These provide life sustaining services to disaster survivors. Even though mass care shelters often supply water, food, medicine and basic sanitary facilities, you should plan to take an emergency supply kit with you so you will have the supplies you need. Prepare for finding shelters by visiting the websites below.

Sheltering in Place – Whether you are at home, work or anywhere else, there may be situations when it is best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. During a Beit Am event, temporary but adequate shelter will be provided so members can be safe and plan next steps in an emergency. For more information, see the “Shelter in Place” section of the *Beit Am Emergency Response and Disaster Mitigation Plan* document, available on the Beit Am website and by request.

The following are suggested links to shelter and preparedness information resources:

- Signup for Linn-Benton Alert
<https://www.co.benton.or.us/preparedness/page/emergency-alert>
- Signup for Corvallis Alert
<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire/page/corvallis-alert-emergency-notifications>
- Federal emergency shelter information
<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/information/immediate-needs/emergency-shelter>
- Overall disaster preparedness tips and shelter types/methods:
<https://www.Ready.Gov/Shelter>
- Help finding open shelters: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/find-an-open-shelter.html>