

## SHELTER RULES

- 1. Don't plan to stay all day.** Shelters listed on this site open in the event of imminent severe weather threat. They are not Red Cross shelters designed to house people for long periods of time. You should plan to go to a shelter you can reach in 10 minutes or less. Stay there until after the threat of the storm has passed, usually 30-60 minutes. If several "rounds" of storms are expected, the actual threat is usually limited to a 30-60 minute window when storms are approaching your area. Rather than waiting out all the "rounds" at the shelter, where there will be no food or drinks or comfort, it is best to stay home between "rounds" and pay attention to local media to determine if dangerous storms may return.
- 2. Seek shelter BEFORE tornado warning.** Do not wait until a tornado warning is issued to leave your home for shelter, as you may drive right into the path of a storm. Shelter in place if a tornado warning has already been issued. Cars are the most dangerous place to be caught in a tornado! Shelter in place rather than driving into a storm to seek shelter.
- 3. If you live in a mobile home,** no matter what, leave your mobile home in the event of severe weather, as mobile homes can be overturned by as little as an EF1 tornado. Do not wait until a tornado warning is issued. Make plans before severe weather threatens! Talk to neighbors, family, and friends, find somewhere you will go and how you'll get there.
- 4. Crate your Pets!** Most shelters listed do not accept pets. If they do accept pets, your pets **MUST** be in crates. This is for the health and safety of your pet, the people at the shelter and you! Our pets' attitudes and personalities change in response to stress. People in the shelter may be allergic. Crate your pet. For more pet info: see Pet Preparedness link on the main page.
- 5. No food or drinks are provided at shelters.** Many shelters on this site do not even have bathrooms. None of the shelters will provide chairs or cots for spending long periods of time. Again, these are not Red Cross shelters and are not designed for comfort of large groups for long periods of time. You are welcome to bring your own beverages and snacks and encouraged to bring entertainment options for children. But do not expect food/beverage service or to stay at the shelter all day.
- 6. No firearms, alcohol, drugs.** If you can't bring it into a school or post office, you can't bring it into a community storm shelter. Local law enforcement supports all of the shelters on this site.