

The American Red Cross is excited to partner with your community in ensuring that emergency sheltering needs are met during an incident. Since every disaster is unique, responses will vary based on the size, scope and location of each incident. However, below are some bullets that may help to answer general questions you may have.

Sheltering for small scale incidents such is large apartment fires :

- Decisions to shelter will often be made on scene by the Fire Chief/ EMD in collaboration with the Red Cross Disaster Action Team Leader.
- Shelters will be opened when the affected number of families/ individuals makes it more cost efficient to open a shelter then provide hotel rooms or if no hotel rooms are available.

Sheltering for large disasters that cover many towns (in which the State EOC is activated)

The most efficient way to request Mass Care assistance during a state wide emergency is to submit a request through WEBEOC. The *Essential Elements of Information* needed (to the best of your ability) by DHHS and Red Cross when making decisions about resource allocation in a state wide event:

Number of calls requesting shelter	
Number of people evacuated	
Number of people projected to be evacuated	
Number of residential structures damaged	
Utilities impacted	
Critical infrastructures impacted	
Projected Functional and Medical Needs population impacted	
What are your projected community needs: <i>ie shelter, food, clothing, medical</i>	
How would you like to meet that need: <i>ie town shelter, regional shelter, warming station, cooling station, fixed feeding, mobile feeding</i>	
What are you requesting from the Red Cross: <i>ie materials, a Red Cross Managed shelter, Red Cross Partner Shelter; canteening; Safe and Well</i>	
If requesting a Red Cross partner or managed shelter what is your preferred location and do you have agreements with other towns/organizations to shelter together?	

Sheltering Special Considerations-

- **Nuclear**
 - Shelter planning for Vermont Yankee and Seabrook nuclear power plants are separate from all hazard sheltering plans. For more information regarding those please reference the *NH Radiological Response for Nuclear Facilities Plan*.
- **Pandemic**
 - Sheltering decisions during a pandemic will be coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services, Local Emergency Managers, and the Public Health Network Coordinators.

American Red Cross Services that can help grow the sheltering capacity for your community. We:

- Provide shelter surveys for potential shelter sites (this also assists with FNSS planning)
- Conduct free training for community members and organizations that can assist in staffing a shelter
- Assist in Town Emergency Operation Planning to help develop mass care plans
- Help build relationships with organizations that can assist towns in FNSS activities.
- Keep your facility information up-to date in the National Shelter System
- Have an application so you can track open shelters on your I-phones during an emergency at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/american-red-cross-shelter/id419258261?mt=8>
- Provide Community Disaster Education programs that teach people how to prepare for a disaster.

If you have any questions regarding shelter planning, training, or facilities please email planning@nhredcross.org and we will be happy to speak with you.