

For our 96 hour kit this month we want to go over shelters. If there was some kind of an emergency where we unable to stay in our homes or apartments, we need to have some type of shelter. Let's go over a few easy solutions.

- 1- One of the easiest solutions is to buy a tent. There are a number of different kinds of tents that you can buy and some of them are pretty inexpensive. At some bigger box stores you can find a family tent for around 40 to 150 dollars. Just remember some tents are only three season tents which does not include winter. They do make four season tents, but they are more expensive. If you do go with a three season tent, it would be a good idea to have some extra blankets to stay warm. One more thing, three season tents are not designed to withstand the weight of snow or forces of high winds.



- 2- If you do end up with a three season tent and it is too cold to stay outside, you have a few more choices, one might be your vehicle. If you do decide to stay in your vehicle, make sure it does not run all the time. Without proper ventilation, carbon monoxide could build up and cause illness or even death to anyone inside. Never run your vehicle in an enclosed space.
- 3- Another shelter option is an RV. In freezing weather, you would have to be careful not to freeze the piping if you use the RV's plumbing. But, an RV could survive even a severe earthquake – think of it – your RV experiences an earthquake every time you drive it down the street. RVs may be easier to heat and cool because of less living space, they have rechargeable batteries (some even have generators) that can provide power for lighting and heating systems (plus other conveniences), they can protect you from the elements and they are mobile.
- 4- A couple of other things to remember, if weather or other conditions are severe enough, you may need to find shelter at the nearest established Red Cross shelter or your local church.

Whatever kind of shelter you decide to get, you should consider having some kind of comfort items, such as books or other items to help with long waits and down time.

Just remember that temporary shelters are just that - temporary. Hopefully, help should arrive within that first 96 hours. If your residence is damaged to the point where you cannot occupy it, you will need to find some other options such as staying with friends or relatives.

Government-supplied housing may be difficult to find and may not be suitable for your needs.

During a recent training I attended, hosted by a Utah State Government Emergency Planning Agency, the instructor, who has worked around the United States on several different disasters as a FEMA representative, stated something along the lines of – working all the different disasters – floods, tornados, hurricanes, etc. - the one preparation suggestion I would strongly advise would be: make sure your insurance needs are fully met. Be sure your home and possessions are covered for any type of emergency – floods, earthquakes, fires, thefts etc. It is important to know that not all emergencies are covered by basic policies. We strongly encourage you to contact your agent and discuss the best policy options for your personal situation.