



Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center

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Emergency Preparedness Bulletin #1

Designate a Safe Room in your home:

There are several possible locations in a house for a shelter. Perhaps the most convenient and safest is below ground level, in a basement.

Another alternative shelter location is an interior room on the first floor of a house. Closets, bathrooms, and small storage rooms offer the advantage of having a function other than providing occasional storm protection. Typically, these rooms have only one door and no windows, which make them well-suited for conversion to a shelter.

Bathrooms have the added advantage of a water supply and toilet. Regardless of where in a house a shelter is built, the walls and ceiling of the shelter must be built so that they will protect the occupants from falling debris, and so that they will remain standing if the house is severely damaged by extreme winds.

Make a family disaster plan:

- Learn about emergency procedures at work, schools, and anywhere your family spends time
- Identify escape routes from your home. Find two ways out of each room.
- Find safe spots in your home, especially for tornadoes and shelter-in-place.
- Pick two places to meet: right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency (like a fire) and outside your neighborhood if you can't return home.
- Pick a family contact in another state who everyone can contact if separated in an emergency.
- Conduct emergency drills once a year.
- Make plans for your pets if you need to evacuate.