Introduction

• Disasters can strike quickly and without warning and can force you to evacuate or shelter in your home or on campus.
  – What would you do without water, gas, electricity or telephones?

• First responders will be on the scene after a disaster, but may not reach everyone for a minimum of 72 hours or longer.
Shelter Considerations

• To effectively shelter, you must consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard.

• The safest locations for shelter vary by hazard. Refer to the FEMA document Are You Ready? for the specific hazard information.

• Take turns listening to radio broadcasts and maintain a 24-hour safety watch.
Preparing A Survival and First Aid Kit

- A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items that members of a household may need in the event of a disaster.
  - The kit should include important documents such as insurance papers, medical information, etc.
- Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs prepare supplies for:
  - Home
  - Work
  - Vehicles
Shelter Selection Based on Hazards

• To effectively shelter, you must first consider the hazard and then choose a place in your home or other building that is safe for that hazard.

• In the following slides, determine if it would be appropriate to shelter in place.
Community College Citizen Preparedness Program

Mudslide
Tornado
Wildfire
Flash Flood
Sheltering in Place

• “Shelter in place” means to make a shelter out of the place you are in.
  – It is a way for you to make the building as safe as possible to protect yourself until help arrives.

• Every emergency is different. Depending on the hazard, people may have to shelter in place or evacuate.
How to Prepare to Shelter in Place

• Choose a room in your house, apartment or building for shelter.

• The best place is a room with as few windows and doors as possible.
  – A large room with a water supply, like a master bedroom that is connected to a bathroom, is best.

• You may need to shelter in place from a few hours to a few days.
What to Do

• Prior to any disaster, talk to family members about how to prepare and about what types of things to bring into the safe place.

• Every situation is unique.
  – Sheltering for a hazardous material release is different than sheltering for a hurricane.

• Act quickly and follow the instructions of your local emergency coordinators including law enforcement personnel, fire departments, and local elected leaders.
Lockdown

• A lockdown is an emergency protocol to prevent people or information from escaping.
  – Usually it is ordered by someone in command.

• Lockdowns are used to protect people inside a facility from a dangerous external event.

• A full lockdown means that people must stay where they are and may not exit or enter a classroom, apartment, store, office space, or other building.
Active Shooter

• Characteristics of an active shooter situation include:
  – Victims are selected at random.
  – The event is unpredictable and evolves quickly.
  – Law enforcement is usually required to end an active shooter situation.
Active Shooter Situation

• Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
• Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you may be in.
• If you are in a classroom or office, stay there and secure the door.
• Attempt to take the active shooter down as a last resort.
A.L.I.C.E.

• "ALICE" is an acronym for 5 steps you can utilize in order to increase your chances of surviving a surprise attack by an Active Shooter.

• Deal with known information and don't worry about unknowns.

• In this type of incident, your perception is the reality.
5 Steps of A.L.I.C.E.

• Alert- Can be anything.
  – Gunfire
  – Witness
  – PA Announcement
  – Phone alert

• Lockdown- This is a semi-secure starting point from which you will make survival decisions. If you decide not to evacuate, secure the room.
5 Steps of A.L.I.C.E.

• **Inform** - Using any means necessary to pass on real time information.

• **Counter** - This is the use of simple, proactive techniques should you be confronted by the Active Shooter.
  – Anything can be a weapon. **Fight dirty.**
  – Throws things at the shooters head to disrupt their aim.
  – Attack in a group (swarm).
  – Grab the shooters limbs and head and take them to the ground and hold them there.
5 Steps of A.L.I.C.E.

- **Evacuate** - Remove yourself from the danger zone as quickly as possible.
  - Decide if you can safely evacuate.
  - Run in a zigzag pattern as fast as you can.
  - Do not stop running until you are far away from the area.
How to Respond to an Active Shooter

• Evacuate
  – Have an escape route and plan in mind.
  – Leave your belongings behind.
  – Keep your hands visible.

• Hide Out
  – Hide in an area out of the shooter’s view.
  – Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors.
  – Silence your cell phone and/or pager.
How to Respond to an Active Shooter

• Take Action
  – As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
  – Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter.
Establishing a Safe Place: Tornado

• At Home
  – The safest place in the home is the interior part of a basement. If there is no basement, go to an inside room, without windows, on the lowest floor like a center hallway, bathroom, or closet.

• Mobile Home
  – DO NOT STAY in a mobile home. Have a plan to shelter elsewhere. If there is nowhere to go lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine or culvert.
Establishing a Safe Place: Hurricane

• Should evacuation to a shelter not be possible, select a safe room and supply that room with:
  – First aid kit
  – Food and water
  – Flashlight with extra batteries
  – A cellular phone
  – Blankets and pillows
  – Radio with extra batteries
  – Fire extinguisher
Evacuation Safety Rules

• Before making any last-minute preparations, be absolutely certain you have time.

• If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Don't wait until the last minute to leave, hoping to save your possessions.

• Move quickly and calmly. Don't take chances.

• Know where you are going before you leave.

• If an evacuation route is suggested, use it.
Evacuation Safety Rules

- If you have limited time for evacuation preparations, take only family medicines, blankets and a battery-powered radio with you.
Evacuation Supplies

- Protective clothing (this is dependent upon your location and type of event)
- Cell phone
- Flashlights and batteries
- Personal hygiene items
- Infant supplies
- Important documents and papers
- Drinking water in plastic bottles; other liquids
- Emergency supplies of ready-to-eat foods
Leaving Home

• If you are certain you have time before you leave your house:
  – Turn off utilities (gas and water).
  – Turn off master circuit breaker in electrical panel.
  – If flood waters threaten, open basement windows to let water in and equalize pressure.
  – Lock your home when you leave it.
Traveling

• Watch for:
  – Washed-out bridges or roads
  – Undermined roadways
  – Landslides
  – Fallen rocks
  – Downed power lines
  – Floating hazards

• Don't drive over flooded roads, especially where they cross overflowing streams and rivers.
Safety Tips for Emergency Travel

• In times of emergency, people often panic, either staying with or abandoning their cars at the wrong time.

• After almost every disaster, search and rescue teams find victims who might have survived if they had been prepared for emergency travel, and had known whether to stay with or leave their cars.
Access/Functional Needs Defined

- Access/Functional needs persons are defined as people who are vulnerable.
- Adults, the elderly and young with access/functional needs include, but are not limited to:
  - Individuals who are economically and educationally disadvantaged.
  - Those for whom English is a second language.
  - Persons who are institutionalized or homeless.
  - Those who have cognitive, emotional, or physical disabilities.
Access/Functional Needs Planning

• People with access/functional needs (vulnerable populations) face the same challenges as others about how to evacuate and where to go when an emergency threatens. But they face additional challenges as well, such as:

  – Being self-sufficient under regular circumstances, but having to rely on the help of others in an emergency situation.

  – Often need more time than others to make necessary preparations for an emergency.

  – A service animal may be confused or disoriented in an evacuation.
Planning Importance

• Developing plans for access/functional needs groups (vulnerable populations) can be difficult.

• Family members of vulnerable populations should provide information to local emergency officials if evacuation or sheltering is necessary.

• The American Red Cross and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has information to assist in the planning process for vulnerable populations.
Service and Comfort Animals

- Assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system are the same for any emergency.

- Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your animals.
  - Have copies of the animals vaccination papers if you must evacuate to a shelter.

- Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your service and comfort animals.
Evacuating High Rise Buildings

• Know location of exit stairways.
  – Count the steps from your door to the exit door.

• Do not use elevator.

• Know where to meet outside the building.

• Rehearse evacuation plan.
Summary

• Taking shelter is critical in times of disaster.
• When sheltering in place, find ways of making the building as safe as possible.
• Before a disaster, talk with family and prepare.
• Have evacuation plans and routes in place.
• Have an adequately supplied survival kit.
• Plan for vulnerable family members and service/comfort animals.