



Annex C: Shelter & Mass Care

Executive Summary

Primary	Red Cross / Salvation Army, Community Services
Support	County Judge's Office, Sheriff's Office, Fire Marshal's Office, Public Infrastructure, Public Health & Environmental Services, Medical Examiner's Office
Coordination	Office of Emergency Management

The purpose of this annex is to outline organizational arrangements, operational concepts, responsibilities, and procedures to protect evacuees and others from the effects of an emergency situation by providing shelter and mass care.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is responsible for developing a plan, for coordinating and providing mass care services to persons affected by a disaster. We will work closely with volunteer organizations that provide shelter and mass care support to determine the availability of shelter and feeding facilities, encourage facility owners to sign agreements for use of those facilities, and encourage facility owners to allow their personnel to participation in shelter management training.

Some of the other departments/entities who have a role under the Shelter and Mass Care annex include:

- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Harris County Fire Marshal's Office
- Animal Control
- American Red Cross
- School Districts/School Superintendent
- Other Volunteer Organizations
- Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services
- The Harris County Public Infrastructure Department
- Harris County Facilities and Property Management

There are no plans to open Shelters in Harris County Pre-Landfall for a Hurricane. Harris County may open wind refuges of last resort, but there is no planning on conversion of a wind refuge of last resort to a shelter. Wind refuges of last resort will be closed as soon as tropical storm force winds have abated.

REFERENCES

- Texas American Red Cross home page: www.redcrosstexas.org. This site contains information on the Texas ARC as well as information on the coverage areas for the ARC Chapters as well as addresses and phone numbers for those chapters.
- ARC Disaster Services Program, *Mass Care – Preparedness and Operations*, ARC 3031, April 1987.
- ARC Disaster Services Program, *Disaster Welfare Inquiry*, ARC 3044, April 1996.
- Annex C (Shelter & Mass Care) to the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*

- Texas American Red Cross home page: www.redcrosstexas.org. This site contains information on the Texas ARC as well as information on the coverage areas for the ARC Chapters as well as addresses and phone numbers for those chapters.