

**SAFER PLACES**  
**LIMESTONE COUNTY**  
**ALABAMA**



***State of Alabama***

***Limestone County Emergency Management Agency***



## What is the *Safer Place* Program?

*The Safer Place* Program is an initiative by the State of Alabama to promote the opening of public and private buildings for use by citizens during severe weather conditions.

**SAFER PLACES = SAFER PEOPLE**




## What is a *Safer Place*?

- A *Safer Place* does not involve the long-term opening of a building for mass care.
- The intent of the program is to provide a safer place for residents to go during severe weather.
- A *Safer Place* is not a certified safe room or storm shelter.




## Why Apply?

- Many residents do not have a safe place to go when severe weather threatens the area.
  - The number of community certified safe rooms and storm shelters is limited and each one has a limited amount of space.
  - Providing residents with a *Safer Place* may save lives.
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## What makes a *Safer Place* safer?

- A facility with a basement is preferred
  - A facility that has a room or rooms with only interior walls and no windows
  - A facility with parking designated for that facility
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## What Personnel Will Be Needed?

- A facility manager to coordinate the staff and functions of the *Safer Place*.
  - A few dedicated volunteers who are available to open and staff the *Safer Place* during severe weather.
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## When will the *Safer Place* be open?


- EMA will request opening the *Safer Place* when a Tornado Watch is issued for Limestone County.
  - The designated facility representative will notify EMA when the facility is open.
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# How will people know about the *Safer Places*?

- EMA will provide information to the public about *Safer Places* using the following methods:
  - EMA Website
  - Local News
  - EMA Twitter
  - EMA Facebook
  
- The following information will be provided:
  - Open or closed
  - Handicap Accessible
  - Pet Friendly






# Are there other events that would require opening the *Safer Place* ?

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- The *Safer Place* facility will only be open for the conditions agreed upon in the MOU.
  - Events other than severe weather include:
    - Warming Center – open when temperature is extremely cold
    - Cooling Center – open when temperature is extremely hot

## Where do I apply?

- The *Safer Place* application can be found on the EMA website located at:  
[www.limestonecountyema-al.gov](http://www.limestonecountyema-al.gov)
- The application must be completed in full and returned to EMA.



# What supplies will be needed when the *Safer Place* is open?

- Weather Radio
  - FM Radio
  - First Aid Kit
  - Toilet paper
  - Hand Towels
  - Handsoap
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# Facility Liability

Alabama Code Section 31-9-17: Exemption from tort liability of persons granting license or privilege for use of real estate, etc., for shelters.

Any person owning or controlling real estate or other premises who voluntarily and without compensation grants a license or privilege, or otherwise permits the designation or use of the whole or any part or parts of such real estate or premises for the purpose of sheltering persons during an actual disaster or an actual, impending, mock, or practice attack, shall, together with his successors in interest, if any, not be civilly liable for negligently causing the death of, or injury to, any person on or about such real estate or premises, or for the loss of, or damage to, the property of such person.



# Volunteer Liability

**Alabama Code § 6-5-336(4)**: A person performing services for a nonprofit organization, a nonprofit corporation, a hospital, or a governmental entity without compensation, other than reimbursement for actual expenses incurred. The term includes a volunteer serving as a director, officer, trustee, or direct service volunteer.

(d) Any volunteer shall be immune from civil liability in any action on the basis of any act or omission of a volunteer resulting in damage or injury if:

(1) The volunteer was acting in good faith and within the scope of such volunteer's official functions and duties for a nonprofit organization, a nonprofit corporation, hospital, or a governmental entity; and

(2) The damage or injury was not caused by willful or wanton misconduct by such volunteer.

(e) In any suit against a nonprofit organization, nonprofit corporation, or a hospital for civil damages based upon the negligent act or omission of a volunteer, proof of such act or omission shall be sufficient to establish the responsibility of the organization therefore under the doctrine of "respondeat superior," notwithstanding the immunity granted to the volunteer with respect