

## Checklist for Identifying Suitable Areas for Storm Sheltering

This checklist is provided in order to assist individuals in identifying suitable areas for sheltering during a severe weather event such as severe thunderstorm or tornado. **This checklist does not guarantee that injury or loss of life will not occur.** Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes often occur with little or no warning and produce violent and unpredictable consequences.

### Sheltering Do's

- Do** put as many walls between you and the storm as possible.
  - Rooms below ground level are preferred.
  - Interior rooms on the ground floor are ok if no below ground rooms exist.
- Do** choose locations that have no windows.
- Do** choose locations that do not contain dangerous debris.
  - Dangerous debris may include paper cutters, file cabinets, lockers, book shelves, vending machines etc. that are not anchored down, glass and/or breakable objects,
- Do** choose locations that exist in the interior of the building.
- Do** choose locations that have supported walls and ceilings.

### Some locations that can be considered for sheltering are as follows:

- Basements
- Restrooms
- Locker Rooms
- Closets
- Hallways

### Sheltering Don'ts

- Don't** identify in rooms that are routinely locked.
- Don't** identify rooms that are large with high ceilings.
- Don't** identify rooms with glass windows, trophy cases or skylights.
- Don't** identify a room or closet that is full of debris, hazardous chemicals or utilities.
- Don't** identify an area that is difficult to access by individuals with special physical needs.
- Don't** identify an area that is exposed to the outside.

### Some locations to avoid considering for sheltering are as follows:

- Gymnasiums
- Auditoriums
- Janitorial supply closets
- Computer closets
- Libraries
- Loading Docks
- Utility Tunnels