

Memorandum of Understanding
_____ **(Facility Owner)**

And

_____ **Emergency Management Agency (Local EMA)**

Safer Places Program

The purpose of the Safer Places Program within the State of Alabama is to facilitate the opening of predesignated areas for citizens seeking a safer place to shelter prior to and during severe weather events. The Safer Places Program is not intended for long-term opening of a building as a mass care site. Instead, the intent of the program is to provide a safer place in the event a FEMA-rated tornado safe room is unavailable for individuals to seek shelter during a severe weather event (such as a tornado or hurricane). The Safer Places locations will not be advertised as “storm shelters,” but as a location of last resort for those citizens who need a safer place to shelter during a pending severe weather event.

Act 2021-165 authorizes the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) to create a Safer Places Program, including the guidelines for the program.

_____, (Facility Owners), who own a building located at _____, in _____ city, in _____ County, Alabama, agree(s) to the following terms:

1. The Facility will be made available to the public prior to and during a severe weather event (such as a tornado or hurricane watch or warning) at the request of the _____ County EMA.
2. The Facility will be advertised as part of the Safer Places Program.
3. The Facility Owners have made a good faith effort to ensure that the Facility meets all the guidelines and rules issued by AEMA.
4. The Facility will be open to all persons regardless of age, race, national origin, color, religion, gender, or disability.
5. The primary point of contact for the Facility is _____ at (____)____ - _____. (Additional points of contact may be listed on the application form.)
6. The Facility Owner will notify the Local EMA in the event it wants to withdraw from the Safer Places Program.

The Local EMA agrees to the following terms:

1. The Local EMA will forward the Facility’s name and location to AEMA and other entities for notification and advertisement purposes.
2. The Local EMA will advertise the Facility as a shelter in the Safer Places Program.

3. The Local EMA will assist the Facility Owner(s) with identifying the safest locations within the Facility for those who may seek shelter at the Facility during a severe weather event.
4. The Local EMA will communicate with the Facility's point of contact when there is a severe weather threat so that the Facility may be opened for those seeking shelter and when the severe weather threat has ceased in order for the Facility to close.

Approved and enacted by:

Name of Facility

Name of Facility Owner(s)

Date

Local Emergency Management Agency:

_____ County EMA

Local EMA Director

Date