



## General Severe Weather Shelter Infrastructure Considerations-- Spring 2025

The following infrastructure requirements ensure the shelters are safe, accessible, and functional for severe weather conditions. This is a quick reference guide. Please contact [Severeweather@kcrha.org](mailto:Severeweather@kcrha.org) for details if you want to proceed with setting up a severe weather shelter.

- **Space Requirements:** Must accommodate overnight stays or daytime refuge, ensuring enough room for sleeping, resting, and social distancing if necessary.
- **Dimensions:** Minimum of 24 square feet per overnight occupant, but refer to prevailing guidance from Public Health based on current health hazards
- **HVAC & Air Quality:** Air filtration is critical, especially for smoke and poor air quality events. HEPA filters and ventilation systems should be considered.
- **Temperature Control:** Cold weather shelters require heated spaces, while hot weather shelters need air conditioning, fans, misters, and shaded areas.

### Structural & Safety Requirements

- **Building Permits & Zoning:**
  - New shelters require city permits, zoning approval, and occupancy permits.
  - Pre-approved buildings (e.g., community centers) must have updated permits.
- **Fire Safety & Public Health:**
  - Smoke detectors
  - Carbon monoxide detectors
  - Mandatory Fire Marshal and Public Health inspections

- Sanitation measures (rodent control, hygiene facilities)
- **ADA Compliance:** Ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Minimum accessible ramp to shelter space, including doorway dimensions and automatic/power door

### Facility-Specific Considerations

- **Bathroom & Shower Facilities:**
  - Multiple restrooms and 24/7 janitorial services are recommended. At least 1 accessible restroom for males and 1 for females
  - Showers-nice to have
- **Food & Water Access:**
  - Space to set up Hydration stations for heat events
- **Storage & Security:**
  - Secure storage for personal belongings to encourage shelter use. Provide lock boxes or bins, or cubbies/lockers

### Additional Site Needs

- **Parking for Vehicle Dwellers:** Consider 2-5 dedicated parking spaces for individuals living in their cars
- **Congregate vs. Non-Congregate Options:**
  - Large open spaces or separate rooms for families, individuals, and specific populations
  - Non-congregate spaces provide privacy curtains for families. Dimensions: at least 100 square feet per family, see above for individual occupant space guidance

