

FAQs for CERT Emergency Shelter volunteers:

1. How will I be contacted regarding the need to support an Emergency residential Shelter setup in Bedford?

Typically CERT members are contacted through the NIXLE app from Bedford CERT Leadership or the Bedford Police Dept NIXLE. In a local emergency situation that requires residential sheltering of Bedford residents, other contact methods might be used such as direct phone calls or text messaging.

2. Who makes the decision to set up a residential shelter and who is in charge of it?

Either one of the two Bedford Emergency Managers will make that decision. The Police Chief and the Fire Chief are the designated EM for Bedford. They are in charge and have procedures to follow in the setup and control of the shelter. Bedford CERT will support them at the Shelter. A designated CERT member will be in direct contact with the EM and supervise the volunteers at the shelter.

3. What do I need to do before I arrive at the shelter?

Since an emergency situation has occurred in Bedford, you must insure the safety of yourself, your family, your pets and your domicile prior to leaving to volunteer. This has a higher priority than volunteering for the shelter. Your CERT issued backpack must be examined and updated with provisions and brought with you together with appropriate CERT clothing and badges.. Extra clothing might be needed based on weather conditions and the emergency situation. Some snack food and water are recommended. If you are an Amateur Radio Operator, bring your portable hand radio. Make sure you tell family or others that you will be at the Bedford High School. Contact your CERT leadership that you will be volunteering at the shelter.

4. Where will the residential Shelter be located?

The Bedford High School has been designated as the Residential shelter. The school cafeteria area located at the back of the Bedford High School is the primary location. If a very large group of people need sheltering then the school gymnasium will also be used. Parking is available at the back of the school.

5. What other support and accommodations will be at the Shelter?

Depending on the situation, Police and Emergency Medical Support will be available. An area for sheltering pets will be provided. Beds and a meal service will be provided. The school has emergency power backup.

