

Effingham Public Library Emergency Temporary Shelter Policy

In the event of a verified weather emergency (as determined by the National Weather Service) where seeking shelter in an enclosed basement location is the recommendation for public safety, and in conjunction with both City of Effingham officials and representatives of the Effingham Public Library, the Effingham Public Library could be designated as an official temporary emergency shelter location (community safe room). City of Effingham officials and EPL staff and board will work together to determine if each weather event warrants the opening of an emergency shelter and will seek joint verbal approval before opening the shelter. The Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Effingham will determine when to close the shelter. At least two trained shelter workers will be at the library during the operating hours of the emergency shelter.

Procedures for the temporary emergency shelter will be developed and updated with the Effingham Public Library and the City of Effingham using best practices available from national and local sheltering experts.

Approved 4/21/2025