The FEMA National Shelter System (NSS) is a coordinated nationwide database of emergency shelter information where thousands of profiles of potential shelter resources, as well as virtually any type of facility associated with the care of disaster survivors, is maintained.

The FEMA NSS is an easy-to-use system that includes data to assist emergency management professionals for planning and operational purposes. The system has the ability to track over 30 types of facilities used for the provision of mass care/emergency assistance as well as Disaster Recovery Centers.

The system also includes an enhanced GIS mapping function that will allow emergency management professionals to see real time facility locations, critical infrastructure, flood plains, fault lines, and other geospatial elements.

Additionally, the system is interoperable with the American Red Cross National Shelter System and WebEOC, allowing data to be shared between systems and eliminating the need to enter data in multiple applications. This system is available to emergency management professionals free of charge and is accessible from any internet connection, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The system includes:
- General, medical, and household pet shelters
- Kitchens, feeding sites
- Points of Distribution (PODs)
- Warehouses
- Warming, cooling, and respite centers
- Embarkation, debarkation, reception processing, and other evacuation sites
- Federal, state, and nongovernmental organization operations centers
- Disaster Recovery Centers

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"FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."

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