

Edited Version Of Home Front Command Shelter Selection Guidelines (For Clarity And Logic)

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For the original, unedited version of these guidelines you can refer to the [Original_Guidelines_0808](#) folder

Choosing Between 'First Priority' Spaces

If your choice is between a *mamad*, *mamak*, shelter, stairwell or an inner room, then your choice should be determined by the time available to reach shelter, the level of protection it offers, and your ability to reach it in time.

If you receive an alert, enter the protected space and wait inside for 10 minutes.

The General Order Of Priority

1. The **first priority** shelters are: a *mamad* (protected room in an apartment) or a *mamak* (protected space for a building).
2. The **second priority** shelters are:
 1. An apartment building's shelter
 2. A public shelter (*miklat*)
3. The **third priority** sheltering space is an internal stairwell that has no windows, openings, or external walls.
The following guidelines pertain to this space:
 1. **In a building with more than three floors**, which has no residential protected rooms, floor protected spaces or a public shelter – stay in a stairwell with at least two floors above it. Do not stay on the ground floor. In buildings with more than three floors, the stairwells of each floor, other than the top two floors and the ground floor, are protected.
 2. **In a building with exactly three floors** and with no residential protected rooms, floor protected spaces or a public shelter – stay in a stairwell of the middle floor. In such a building, the most protected floor is the middle (second) floor.
4. The **fourth priority** shelter is an inner room and the following guidelines pertain to it:

1. If there are no residential protected rooms, floor protected spaces, a public shelter, or an internal stairwell, choose an inner room with as few external walls, windows, and openings as possible. Do not choose kitchens, bathrooms, or toilets and keep away from ceramics, porcelain, and glass that might shatter. When receiving an alert, sit in an inner corner, below the window line and not facing the door.
5. The **last resort** is to lie on the ground and adopt a protective posture according to the official guidelines.

Not Considered 'Safe' Spaces For The Purpose Of These Guidelines

- Kitchens
- Toilets
- Bathrooms

These are the additional guidelines for sheltering indoors:

- Stay away from ceramics, porcelains, and glass that may shatter.

Guidelines For Specific Circumstances

Alert Sounds While In A Prefabricated Structure

If an alert is received while you are inside a prefabricated structure, leave the building and go into the protected space in the time available to reach shelter.

Last Resort / No Shelter Available

If entering a protected space within the time available to reach shelter is not possible, leave the building, lie on the ground and protect your head with your hands.

Additional Guidelines

Avoid Building Entrances

Stay away from the building entrance area.

This space is potentially susceptible to rocket fragments and blast waves due to impacts on nearby buildings.

Keep Building Doors Open

The entrance doors to buildings should be kept open for the benefit of those who may find themselves outside when the alert sounds [and need to shelter inside the building]

Places Chairs In The Stairwell

For a significant portion of Israel's population, the stairwell is the most protected space available.

Please consider placing chairs in it for the benefit of elderly residents.

Maintaining the integrity of the protected space

For the protected space to fill its role in an emergency, it must be regularly maintained.

These are additional recommendations:

- Plan your route to the protected space in advance, make sure it is cleared of obstacles and obstructing items to prevent possible falls and injuries. Ensure that all passageways and stairwells are not blocked.
 - If your protected space is the residential protected room you are obliged to maintain its integrity and refrain from making changes unauthorized changes [to the space]

- The Home Front Command maintains guidelines regarding legally prohibited uses for the protected room (*mamad*) and maintains guidelines for its maintenance.
- If your protected space is the common building shelter, you are obligated to maintain its integrity and must refrain from making unauthorised changes to it.

General Preparedness Recommendations

- It is recommended to maintain emergency supplies in your household
- You should also maintain contact information for your family members which may be useful for emergency services
- In the event of an emergency the outer steel window and inner glass window (of the *mamad*) must be closed and locked at the beginning of the emergency and until it is declared formally over.
- If a double-wing glass window is installed, it must be removed and placed outside of the building protected room.

Context-Based Instructions: Indoors

If you are able to enter one of the following spaces within the time available to you, you should do so according to the following order of preference:

Priority 1: Mamad, Mamak Or Public Shelter (Miklat)

As a first priority proceed to whichever of these is accessible to you and closest:

- Your *mamad* (apartment's designated protected space)
- A *mamak* or *mamam* which you can access (a *mamak* is a protected space for the floor and a *mamam* is translated by Pikud Haoref as an "institutional" safe space)
- A public shelter (*miklat tzi'buri*)

If you can access one of these spaces, upon doing so, follow these instructions:

- Close the door by turning the handle 90 degrees
- Ensure that the steel window and inner glass window are both closed

Priority 2: Inner Stairwell

If none of the first priority sheltering spaces are available to you within the time of the alert, then choose an *inner stairwell**

The guidelines are that this space should (ideally) have:

- No windows
- No openings
- No external walls

An "external wall" is a wall in the building that is exposed to the outdoors.

When you reach the stairwell you should sit on the stairs and not in the floor space.

Additional Instructions For Choosing A Stairwell

- **If the building is more than three floors high**, you should remain on a stairwell with at least two floors above it.
- **If the building is less than three floors high** you should remain on the middle floor
In a building with less than three floors – stay in the middle floor.

Priority 3: Non-Protected Room In Your Home

The last priority if you are indoors is to choose a regular room in your home (ie, not a *mamad* / protected space). Choose this option only if there are no options from the above two priorities available to you.

These are the ideal considerations that you should look for in a last resort inner room:

- The room should have as few outside walls as possible, ideally none
- It should have as few openings as possible

When inside you should:

- Sit in an inner corner below the window line and not facing the door.

Also note:

- Kitchens, bathrooms, toilets cannot be used as an inner room.

Context-Based Guidelines: Public Transport

If you are taking public transport when a rocket siren goes off, the appropriate response depends upon the type of public transport you are taking:

Intercity buses, student transportation:

The driver should:

- Stop the vehicle at the side of the road and open the doors.
- Passengers must bend beneath the window line and protect their heads with their hands.

City buses

The driver must:

- Stop on the side of the road
- Open the doors for passengers to disembark

Passengers should:

- Enter a nearby building

If it is not possible to reach a building within the time available to reach shelter, bend below the window line and protect your head with your hands.

Train

If you are travelling on a train when a rocket siren goes off:

The driver must:

- Slow down to a speed of 30KM/H for 10 minutes

Passengers must:

- Bend below the window line in the carriages and protect their heads with their hands.

Context-Based Instructions: Outdoors

If you are outdoors when a rocket siren goes off, choose your shelter according to your context.

In A Built Up Area

If you find yourself outdoors in a built up area when a siren goes off (like a town/city) then you should:

- Enter a shelter or a stairwell in a nearby building.
- You should stay away from building entrances.

In An Open Area

If you find yourself outdoors and in an open area when a siren goes off, then you should:

- Lie on the ground adopting the appropriate safe posture (protecting your heads with your hands)
- In the event of a rocket impact, the blast wave from the explosion can generate dangerous fragments which are capable of injuring anybody who is standing or sitting

Context-Based Instructions: Using Private Transport

If you find yourself in a private vehicle when the siren goes off then you should:

- **Stop by the side of the road**, exit the vehicle, and enter a shelter or a stairwell of a nearby building.
If you are unable to reach a building within the time available to reach shelter then you should:
 - Exit the vehicle and move away from it by the side of the road or the separation fence, lie on the ground, and protect your head with your hands.
- If you are not able to leave the vehicle at all (and only then) you should:
 - Stop at the the side of the road and bend beneath the window line.