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This manual was developed to provide guidance in selecting hurricane evacuation shelters and to provide guidance in identifying and prioritizing mitigation efforts to improve/occupant safety of selected structures. The user must assume responsibility for adapting and/or supplementing the information contained herein to meet the particular requirements of a project.

For the purposes of this guidance manual, the terms “safe”, “safer,” and “safest” are relative terms and solely intended to indicate the degree of conformity with ARC 4496, Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation Shelter Selection, and for no other purpose. The use of these terms is not intended, and should not be construed, to mean that a particular structure is free from hazard, affords complete protection, or is free from danger or harm.