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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.