

Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System (B)
The Moon: Science, New Results, Ongoing Missions, Future Robotic and Human Exploration
(B01)
Consider as poster only.

LUNAR LAVA TUBES AS PREPARED EMERGENCY SHELTERS.

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If Lunar lava tubes were mapped from orbit and robotically explored their could be supplies for potentially used emergency depots. This occurs in the Antarctic. Lava tubes are hollowed out tubes where ancient lava flowed through and left a tunnel. A major problem of their use is the entering and egress. These might have to be excavated robotically. Lava tubes have been proposed to be used as shelters on the Moon before but supplies could be cached in areas potentially traversed in case of an emergency during a surface traverse. These supplies would be protected from some radiation would be fully protected from micrometeorites and theoretically could be left indefinitely. It has been proposed that they be used as shelters but to the authors knowledge it has not been proposed that they be used as cache and emergency depots.