

Partners in Progress...

Today, tornado and hurricane prone communities have a new sense of hope and safety. Safe rooms and shelters are becoming a part of our country's planning and development philosophy and serve as a beacon of progress as we proudly move into the 21st Century.

National, state, local agencies, businesses and individuals across the country are embracing the concept of **Disaster Resistant Communities** with innovative programs and projects:

- Homeowners who receive a disaster assistance loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to repair or rebuild a damaged or destroyed home may use some of the loan proceeds to construct a safe room. The SBA can also increase the approved disaster loan up to 20 percent to cover the cost of adding a safe room.
- FEMA and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) have collaborated to develop incentives and opportunities to promote the Safe Room Initiative. FHA's new initiative will enable a lender to loan a homebuyer up to \$5,000 more than the amount needed to buy a home to cover the cost of installing a windstorm shelter.
- FEMA and the U.S. Department of Education are working together to ensure that communities have information about mitigation opportunities during repair, renovation and construction of schools.
- Several States, pioneered by Oklahoma, Arkansas and Iowa, have developed initiatives to provide safe room grants and rebates.
- The construction industry has actively partnered with Project Impact communities by conducting and sponsoring seminars and workshops, donating and building demonstration safe rooms, and participating in national conferences.
- The National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) was established with the encouragement of FEMA and Texas Tech Wind Engineering Center. The primary purpose of the association is to ensure the highest quality of manufactured and constructed storm shelters for protecting people from injury or loss of life.
- College and university students in Architecture, Engineering and Vocational Education Departments are involved with community safe room projects and are building models that are used for educational events.



Tornado safe rooms take center stage at local event, "Public Safety Awareness Day."



A local resident looks at photographs of tornado damage displayed on the interior walls of a model safe room.

- Eleven major Tulsa, Oklahoma homebuilders are cooperating in the design, construction and marketing of Legacy Park, a new subdivision in the Tulsa region. Every model house will include a safe room.
- Many builders and developers in tornado and hurricane prone areas are now offering safe rooms as an option during new construction.

- Safe rooms and disaster-resistant housing are now regularly featured in home shows, conferences, and trade shows.