



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAFE ROOM GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR STORM IMPACTED COUNTIES

PEARL – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is now accepting applications for its “A Safe Place to Go Program.”

Residents affected by tornadoes and flooding that struck Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Choctaw, Holmes, Lafayette, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Warren and Yazoo counties on April 24 and May 1 may apply for the reimbursement program. Priority to participate and receive funding will be given to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

“We hope people take advantage of this opportunity to help protect themselves from future storms.” said MEMA Director Mike Womack.

A safe room is an interior shelter in a small, windowless room that is easily accessible for an entire family. Research performed at the Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas proves that safe rooms can withstand winds and debris at 250 miles per hour.

Through the program, the state can reimburse up to 75 percent of the eligible costs not to exceed \$4,000 for single-family shelters. The grant program is made available through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds that are administered by MEMA.

To qualify for reimbursements, the safe room/shelter must be constructed according to the FEMA’s design plans and construction criteria. Details are available at www.fema.gov. To apply for the program please visit www.msema.org and click on the appropriate link.

Mississippi originally launched the safe rooms program in 2001 after a series of tornadoes and severe weather killed eight people and injured more than 100 others.

Since 2001, more than 6,000 Mississippians have been able to install a storm shelter or safe room in their homes thanks to the “A Safe Place to Go Program.”

For more information call MEMA’s public information line at 866-519-MEMA (6362).

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“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”
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