



# MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: (866) 920-MEMA

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Media Contact  
866-920-MEMA (6362)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TORNADO VICTIMS CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR SAFE ROOM PROGRAM**

**PEARL** – In less than a week, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has received more than 100 applications for its “A Safe Place to Go Program.” Due to the heavy response, MEMA encourages residents to apply now. The deadline to apply is Aug.7.

“The odds of surviving a natural disaster increases significantly if you are prepared. This program has stimulated people’s interest in being prepared ahead of time,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack.

Residents who live in the areas that were affected by the April 24 and May 1 storms may apply for a safe room grant. The affected counties include: Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Choctaw, Holmes, Lafayette, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Tippah, Tishomingo, Union, Warren and Yazoo. Priority to participate will be given to homeowners whose homes sustained documented damage. The second priority is to offer the grants to those applicants within the declared counties that did not sustain damage.

A safe room can be installed in ground, above ground or inside a home. Research proves that safe rooms can withstand winds and debris at 250 miles per hour.

Since 2001, more than 6,200 Mississippians have been able to install a safe room thanks to the “A Safe Place to Go Program.”

Through the program, the state can reimburse up to 75 percent of the total eligible costs not to exceed \$4,000 for single-family safe rooms. In order to receive reimbursement, participants must receive grant approval prior to installing the safe room. 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 must be constructed according to the FEMA’s design plans and construction criteria. Details are available at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). To apply for the program please visit [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org) and click on the appropriate link.

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

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