



How to Help those Afflicted by Typhoon Haiyan

Our hearts go out to those afflicted by Typhoon Haiyan. Folks have asked us at the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) how best to help. The simple answer is: send money and prayers.

There will be dozens, possibly hundreds of relief and other Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) involved in ongoing Response and Recovery operations in the Philippines, and elsewhere in Asia. Please [see here](#) for an appended a list of some of the more prominent ones.

If anyone wants to help immediately, donation of money to one of those groups, or to the American Red Cross (with a designation for Pacific Typhoon Relief) is definitely the best immediate way. If one wanted to quickly get funds in hand to a relief organization, the American Red Cross is accepting donations, designated for the [Pacific Typhoon relief](#).

Thanks for considering how best to help those in need!

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Association: Purpose & Progress

A Message from NHMA President, Ed Thomas

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) promotes hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and the reduction of risk. This is accomplished through: the creation of a forum for the “Whole Community” to share their ideas and experiences; development of a thoughtful and unified voice for hazard mitigation and climate adaptation in the public marketplace for ideas; promotion of greater awareness of the social, economic and environmental component of safe and resilient development; creation of more equitable, safe and sustainable programs which both benefit the community as a whole. We seek to protect the property and rights of all, with a special emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable populations in our communities.

NHMA is, I think absolutely unique, in the United States and, for that matter, the World. Unlike other organizations, NHMA seeks to horizontally cut good across all the cylinders of excellence, or stovepipes, of the entire “Whole Community. NHMA also vertically connects all levels of government, citizens, and nonprofit community together, so that concepts, thoughts, and ideas can be readily exchanged and problems resolved.

So far in 2013, we have made considerable progress in spreading and promoting the concept of safe resilient development that is done in such a manner as to promote a better future for our nation and the world. Among the 2013 accomplishments are:

- Conducting highly successful [Symposium](#) held in conjunction with an Annual Natural Hazards Workshop;
- Increased involvement with the American Bar Association, including major presentations and the development of our proposal for a major ABA initiative to support hazard mitigation climate adaptation;
- Continued work with the insurance industry through the NHMA Insurance Task Force on how insurance can support the economic basis of sound hazard mitigation and climate adaptation;
- Continued work with FEMA and the [Resilient Neighbors Network](#);
- Support for FEMA and the National Emergency Managers Association on the continued development of the [National Hazard Mitigation Collaborative Alliance](#);
- Much closer work and cooperation with the Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) and related DHS infrastructure efforts to secure a prominent place for hazard mitigation and climate adaptation as we consider how to develop more safe and secure infrastructure in the United States.

As an Association, as a nation, and from the perspective of the entire world, we have a long way to go. But I am proud of the role NHMA is playing in building a resilient future. I very much hope that all of you will volunteer and become much more heavily involved in our efforts as we go forward. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Ed Thomas

Volunteers Needed!

The successes of NHMA are due to the dedication of our volunteers. More volunteers are needed to help continue our efforts, and you can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for future generations by participating now in the efforts of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association. Please volunteer to serve on an [NHMA Committee](#) or Task Force today!



Moore, OK, resident Scott Lewis stands in Safe Room that saved him and his son when the May 2013 tornado wrecked his home and city. Photo by Ann Patton (c).

Seeking Shelter from the Storm: NHMA studies Safe Rooms

by Ann Patton, Tulsa writer and consultant, charter NHMA member

With help of a FEMA grant, NHMA launched a new project in October: to study the remarkable popularity of tornado Safe Rooms in central Oklahoma and to garner lessons learned that can be used to help keep people safe in high-risk zones across the nation.

“FEMA asked NHMA to document the reasons people are buying Safe Rooms, what incentives and disincentives influence this consumer behavior, and what can be done to encourage people in tornado zones to take greater responsibility for their storm safety,” said NHMA President Ed Thomas.

The NHMA team will examine Safe Room data and gather opinions from consumers, builders and suppliers, officials, and researchers. The one-year study will focus on selected communities in the Oklahoma City area, which has experienced many recent killer storms and has perhaps the greatest concentration of tornado Safe Rooms in the country.

Safe Rooms are engineered enclosures, precisely anchored and armored, to withstand even the most severe windstorms or tornadoes. They can provide personal safety and peace of mind for individuals or groups and can be built above or below ground, inside or outside a home or other building.

The Safe Room industry is a recent phenomenon. Only 15 years ago, FEMA issued the first report specifying how to build individual Safe Rooms in home closets or bathrooms, based on 25 years’ research by Texas Tech’s Dr. Ernst Kiesling and others. The popularity of Safe Rooms blossomed in Oklahoma after killer tornadoes in 1999, and the simple idea quickly spawned a plethora of options, including prefab metal Safe Rooms and large group shelters for locations such as schools.

Principal NHMA investigators in the study are Tim Lovell, Tulsa’s Partners executive director; Alessandra Jerolleman, NHMA executive director; and Ann Patton, writer and consultant. Advisors to the study include Tom Bennett, meteorologist, journalist, Safe Room manufacturer, and past president of the National Storm Shelter Association; Dr. Ernst Kiesling, the inventor of the Safe Room and NSSA executive director; and Ed Thomas, NHMA president.



From 24 - 26 September 2014 the second Deltas in Times of Climate Change will be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Invitation to organise a Deltas in Practice Workshop

The conference will offer participants around thirty workshops tailored to practitioners and policy makers. For more information on how to submit a proposal for a Deltas in Practice Workshop, please [click here](#).



The [2013 International Hazard Mitigation Practitioners Symposium](#) in Broomfield, Colorado was a resounding success! Held in conjunction with the [Annual Natural Hazards Workshop](#), this year's Symposium focused on "From Grassroots to Global: Reducing Disaster Losses through Mitigation and Adaptation." For the full program, please [click here](#). If you missed this year's symposium or wish to revisit any of the presentations, recordings are [available here](#).

NHMA Consultants

NHMA occasionally is able to pay consultants a small stipend for work performed under contract to funding agencies. If you are interested in being an occasional paid NHMA consultant, please let Alessandra or Ed know.

HURRICANE SANDY REBUILDING TASK FORCE STRATEGY

President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force released a rebuilding strategy in August to serve as a model for communities across the nation facing greater risks from extreme weather and to continue helping the Sandy-affected region rebuild. The Rebuilding Strategy contains 69 policy recommendations, many of which have already been adopted, that will help homeowners stay in and repair their homes, strengthen small businesses and revitalize local economies and ensure entire communities are better able to withstand and recover from future storms. For more information, please [click here](#).



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