



FEMA

Mitigation Minute for April 21, 2021

04/21/2021

[Screen Reader users: Select this link to read the Mitigation Minute.](#)



FEMA



Mitigation Minute

HMA
Hazard Mitigation Assistance

FEMA Updates Safe Room Guidance Resources

FEMA has published updates to two of its safe room resources: P-320, *Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building or Installing a Safe Room for Your Home*; and P-361, *Safe Rooms for Tornadoes and Hurricanes: Guidance for Community and Residential Safe Rooms*.



Updates in both publications include criteria for designing and constructing a safe room that provides near-absolute protection from wind and wind-borne debris for occupants.

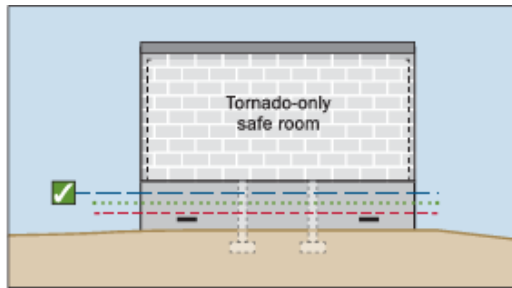
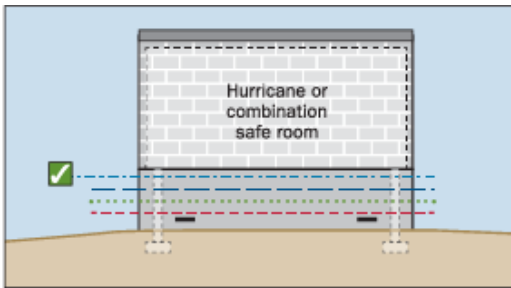
The updates to FEMA P-320 focus guidance exclusively on residential safe rooms for one- and two-family dwellings.

FEMA P-361 offers guidance for operating and maintaining storm shelters.

When safe room designers implement FEMA's safe room guidance in their projects, they can be confident they are using the best available information to guide the design and construction of a residential safe room.

FEMA safe rooms provide near-absolute protection from the deadly winds and wind-borne debris associated with extreme-wind events.

To date, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs have provided **\$1.3 billion** to construct safe rooms and wind shelters in the United States and its territories. Of this, its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has obligated **\$1.1 billion**, and its Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)* has obligated **\$148 million**.



Illustrations of community safe room examples that meet flood elevation criteria (assuming siting requirements are met).

- Minimum elevation of the lowest floor required by the authority having jurisdiction. For communities with more than one foot of freeboard, this elevation may be the highest required elevation.
- 500-year flood elevation*
- Two feet above the base flood elevation*
- Storm surge elevation*

*If flood elevations for your safe room site are not shown on the flood hazard map or flood elevation study adopted by your community, then flood elevations should be determined as detailed in ICC 500 Section 402.3.

✓ Denotes minimum acceptable safe room elevation.

Visit the [Safe Room Publications and Resources](#) page to download both publications as well as their supplemental materials.

For more information, please call the FEMA Safe Room Helpline at 866-927-2104 (toll free) or email saferoom@fema.dhs.gov.



FEMA

* The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program replaced PDM for all new funding starting in fiscal year 2020.

Learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division's [grant programs](#).

The Natural Hazards Center, in partnership with FEMA, is pleased to present the **Making Mitigation Work** Webinar Series. These free one-hour webinars feature innovative speakers and highlight recent progress in mitigation policy, practice, and research. [Learn more and register](#).

Disclaimer:

About the Mitigation Minute

This series is provided by FEMA's [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) Division. The *Mitigation Minute* contains a weekly fact about grants and resources provided across the country to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and does not endorse any non-government organizations, entities or services.

Comments or questions? Contact a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Specialist for your region. [Download](#) the FEMA app today for weather alerts, safety tips, and recovery center locations.



[Update Your E-mail Address](#) | [Change Delivery Preference](#) | [Update State and Zip Code](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe to receive alerts during disasters in your state.](#)

If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [FEMA](#).

[Privacy Policy](#) | GovDelivery is providing this information on behalf of U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and may not use the information for any other purposes.