



City of Moore ShelterMoore - Residential Storm Shelter Rebate Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1.1 Q. What is the ShelterMoore - Residential Storm Shelter Rebate Program?

A. A program to provide a rebate for purchase and installation of storm shelters for Moore homeowners.

1.2 Q. What does the ShelterMoore program offer?

A. The program offers a rebate of up to \$2,500 to homeowners who construct a storm shelter meeting FEMA standards at their home within the city limits of Moore.

1.3 Q. How many rebates will the ShelterMoore program fund?

A. Current funding will allow for 1,500 rebates (1,500 shelters). Additional funding sources may be pursued should there be demand.

1.4 Q. How is the City of Moore funding this program?

A. The City anticipates several sources of funding for this program, including generous consideration from the American Red Cross and potentially several different Federal grant programs.

Storm Shelters

2.1 Q. What is a storm shelter?

A. A storm shelter is a designed and engineered location which provides "near-absolute protection" from extreme wind events such as tornados.

2.2 Q. Am I 100% safe from a tornado while in a storm shelter?

A. To date, a wind event exceeding the maximum design criteria in the FEMA guidance has not been observed; however such an event may have occurred in the past or may potentially occur in the future. For this reason, the protection provided by storm shelters is called "near-absolute" rather than "absolute".

Source: FEMA-361, "Design and Construction Guidance for Community Safe Rooms"; p. 1-2.

2.3 Q. What is the difference between a storm shelter, a safe room, and a place of refuge?

A. For purposes of this program the terms "storm shelter" and "safe room" are interchangeable and refer to an engineered structure that meets FEMA criteria and provides near absolute protection from wind events. A place of refuge, however, is a location that is a place of last resort and provides only limited protection from the effects of an extreme wind event.

2.4 Q. Which is better, an above or below ground storm shelter?

A. That depends on your particular preference and circumstance. Both were found to perform well in a review in the aftermath of the May 20th tornado.

ShelterMoore Program Eligibility, Registration and Selection

3.1 Q. Who is eligible for the program?

A. Persons who are both the homeowner and resident of a single-family residence located within the city limits of the City of Moore. The residence where the storm shelter is installed must be the primary residence of the homeowner (no cabins, lake homes, guest homes, etc.).

3.2 Q. Who or what properties are NOT eligible for the program?

A. - Renters
- Secondary homes of a homeowner (rental properties, lake homes, cabins, etc.)
- Apartment complexes, duplexes, and other multi-family residences
- Businesses and commercial properties
- Any location outside of the City of Moore city limits.
- Persons who already have installed a storm shelter at their home (*with exception noted in 3.3 below*).

3.3 Q. My home was destroyed by the May 20th tornado and I have already rebuilt within Moore and have included a storm shelter in my new home. Is it eligible for the rebate?

A. Yes. If your home was destroyed by the May 20th tornado and you've already installed a storm shelter in your new (replacement) home, it may be eligible for a rebate. All other requirements still are in effect, and in particular, the shelter must meet or exceed the standards as established in FEMA Publication 361 (and the vendor/builder must certify this).

3.4 Q. I own a second home where my son/daughter and their families reside in. Is it eligible for the rebate?

A. No. Only the primary home of a homeowner is eligible for the program. You must both own the home and live in it (as your primary residence) to be considered.

3.5 Q. My home in Moore was destroyed by the May 20th tornado, and I am rebuilding or have bought a home outside of Moore. Am I eligible for the rebate?

A. No. Only storm shelters that will be installed inside the city limits of Moore are eligible for the program.

3.6 Q. How do I register for the program?

A. Registration will be an online process via the State's SoonerSafe registration page, at www.soonersafe.ok.gov.

3.7 Q. I don't use a computer. How can I register for the program?

A. Computers are available for public use at the Moore Public Library. Also, you may come to City Hall and a city employee will assist you with registering.

3.8 Q. Can I mail or fax in a registration form instead of submitting it online?

A. No. Registration is only available online.

3.9 Q. What are the registration dates?

A. Registration for the ShelterMoore program will begin on January 22nd, 2014, and continue through February 28th, 2014.

3.10 Q. Why am I registering on a State of Oklahoma website for a City of Moore program?

A. The State has been gracious to allow the City to use their existing storm shelter registration system. This reduces the administrative cost to the City and allows for more funds to be expended in rebates. This also registers you for the State's SoonerSafe program, increasing your chances of being selected to participate in a rebate program.

3.11 Q. Can multiple people in my household register for a rebate?

A. No. Only one person may register per physical home address.

3.12 Q. Does registering on this website mean that I will receive a rebate?

A. No. Registering ensures you will be considered for the program, but does not guarantee that you will receive a rebate.

3.13 Q. When will selection of program recipients be made?

A. A date for selection of recipients has not been set; however, selection will likely be made in late February or early March.

3.14 Q. How will recipients be selected?

A. Each registrant will be assigned a number; selections will be made based upon a random drawing of those numbers.

3.15 Q. Does anyone receive priority in the program?

A. Homeowners whose primary residences were destroyed or received significant damage in the May 20th, 2013 or May 31st, 2013 tornados will receive first priority for selection. All other residences will receive next priority.

3.16 Q. How will "significant damage" be determined?

A. Significant damage will be determined based on the necessity of obtaining a building permit from the City. If a building permit was obtained for building a home to replace one destroyed on May 20th, or a building permit was obtained for rebuilding/remodeling of a home damaged on May 20th or May 31st, those residences will be given priority for a storm shelter rebate. (Note that they must still meet the other eligibility requirements.) Final authority for determination of priority status will rest with the program manager.

3.17 Q. I didn't get selected. Now what?

A. Those registrants not selected will remain in both the Moore and State rebate program database, and will be eligible for future selection in either program.

For Those Selected

4.1 Q. I was selected for the ShelterMoore program. Now what?

A. Those selected for the program will have various verifications made by the City to ensure that the location is a viable place for construction of a storm shelter. Those verifications include checking that the location is not within a designated floodplain, isn't in a historical district or house, etc. Once those verifications are made, the City will send each selectee a form for the participant to complete, sign and return to the City. Upon receipt, the City will send an approval package that contains all information needed for the applicant to begin the purchase and installation of a storm shelter.

4.2 Q. What kind of a storm shelter can I build? Above ground? Below ground? In my garage?

A. Any type of storm shelter may be constructed, so long as it meets or exceeds the requirements as established in FEMA Publication 361.

4.3 Q. Do I need a building permit?

A. Yes. You or your contractor must receive a permit for construction of a storm shelter from the City of Moore prior to any installation. The permit is \$24.50, and may be obtained at the Inspections window at City Hall.

4.4 Q. How long do I have to construct my storm shelter?

A. Applicants will have 45 days from the date of the approval letter to contract with a vendor for provision and installation of their storm shelter; and one year from the date of the approval letter to complete construction of their storm shelter, have it inspected and approved, and return all paperwork to the City.

4.5 Q. Is there a list of approved storm shelter vendors?

A. No. We suggest you choose your vendor based on the same principles you would use to choose someone to build or remodel your home. However, it is imperative that the vendor certify to you that their product meets or exceeds the criteria as established in FEMA Publication 361.

4.6 Q. Can I put a storm shelter in my front yard?

A. Yes, with restrictions. No part of the storm shelter, including the vent, may extend more than 18" above ground level. *(Remember that a shelter permit is required for all storm shelters; you may pose specific questions concerning front yard installations when you apply for the permit.)*

After the Storm Shelter is Installed

5.1 Q. My storm shelter is in. What now?

A. Once your storm shelter has been installed, you need to have your vendor complete part of the "Storm Shelter Completion and Rebate Request Form" that you received in your approval packet. You also need to contact the City for an inspection.

5.2 Q. What will the City Inspector do?

A. The City Inspector will be visually verifying that your storm shelter meets FEMA criteria and that it was installed to city code. He'll also take a couple of pictures of the storm shelter and also determine the latitude/longitude ("GPS coordinates") for the door.

5.3 Q. What else do I need to do to receive my rebate?

A. You will need to complete, sign, and return the "Storm Shelter Completion and Rebate Request Form" to the City.

5.4 Q. When will I receive my rebate?

A. Once your completed form is received by the City, the City will verify that all paperwork is complete and take steps to issue your rebate.

5.5 Q. Do I have to pay for my storm shelter prior to receiving the rebate?

A. Yes. This is a rebate program.

Using My Storm Shelter

6.1 Q. Do I need to register my storm shelter with the City?

A. No. Once you receive your shelter permit (see #4.3), you are automatically entered into our registry.

6.2 Q. Is the storm shelter registry shared with the public?

A. No, we do not publish the storm shelter registry. *(However, it is public information that may be requested via an Open Records Act request.)*

6.3 Q. Am I required to open my storm shelter to the public?

A. No. This is your shelter, you determine who you allow into it.

6.4 Q. What maintenance do I need to do to my storm shelter?

A. In general, keep it clean and inspect it once in a while for proper operation of the door and vents, moisture, rust, etc. Your vendor may have additional information for your specific model and installation.

6.5 Q. What should I do or take into the storm shelter with me when weather is threatening?

A. A short list might include:

- a flashlight
- a weather radio and perhaps a commercial broadcast (AM/FM) radio *(and understand that reception may be poor due to the location and/or materials in the storm shelter)*
- wear boots or other thick-soled shoes - remember, there may be only debris left when you leave the storm shelter
- water and snacks
- essential medicines
- a jack, come-along and chain, or other items that might assist in opening a damaged door.

It is recommended to keep much of this and other items in an "emergency bag" or "go kit". Information and a full checklist of items may be found at www.ready.gov.

Taxation and Funding

7.1 Q. If I receive the rebate, will I have to claim it as income on my taxes?

A. No.

7.2 Q. If I build a storm shelter, can I claim any tax exemptions?

A. Yes. The Oklahoma Constitution provides for up to one hundred square feet of a storm shelter installed after January 1, 2002 shall be exempt from taxation.