

BVCOG Individual Safe Room Rebate Program

The Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) is pleased to announce the Brazos Valley Individual Safe Room Rebate Program. This rebate program will be available until December 6, 2014 and could provide over 350 individual safe rooms across the region. The program provides funding to aid homeowners with the installation of storm/tornado shelters in or nearby their homes by reimbursing half the cost of the purchase and installation of a certified individual safe room/shelter, up to \$3,000 per shelter. The Individual Safe Room Rebate Program is being funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).

Brazos Valley – This program is only intended to serve the 7-county area of the Brazos Valley region which includes Brazos, Burlison, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington.

Residential – The FEMA/TDEM program rules state that the applicants must be the owner occupant, builder or developer of the home in which the safe room is to be built. The rules also require that the home be a single family dwelling that lies outside a FEMA or locally mapped floodplain. In limited situations, this program can assist with the installation of safe rooms in multi-family dwellings (town homes and/or condominiums) provided the safe room units are exclusively for occupants on a ground floor.

Safe Room/Storm Shelter – For the purpose of this program, a safe room/storm shelter is an



above or below ground unit built to the FEMA 320 design standards. A safe room built according to these standards is expected to withstand the forces imposed on it by extreme winds without failing. TDEM recognizes two non-profit organizations that maintain quality verification processes and procedures that ensure that their members are producing and installing safe rooms that meet or exceed the FEMA 320 standards. These two organizations are: 1) the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) <http://www.nssa.cc/home.php> and 2) the American

Tornado Shelter Association (ATSA) <http://www.americantornadoshelterassociation.org/>. The only units authorized for rebate support under this program will be units certified as meeting the FEMA 320 standards by either the NSSA or by the ATSA.

Rebate Program – This is a 50:50 matching program that will provide home owners, developers and builders a rebate of up to \$3,000 to offset the cost of installing a certified safe room in a residence. Home owners, developers and builders must first apply for a rebate and then receive a written confirmation of rebate award from the BVCOG before being assured of receiving this assistance. The rebate application package can be found on the BVCOG's Public Safety Planning website at: <http://www.bvcog.org/programs/public-safety-planning/> or it can be obtained by contacting Khris Thurmond at (979) 595-2800. Applications will be accepted through September 13, 2014.