



PRPC's Renewal of the Panhandle Regional Tornado Shelter Rebate Program Status as of July 30, 2010

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) has submitted an application to the Texas Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation Section for grant funding under the Hazard Mitigation Program to renew the Regional Residential Safe Room (Tornado Shelter) Rebate Program. Right now, the project is still pending approval and the application should be finally acted on later this year. There are no guarantees but we're optimistic our application will be funded and we hope to begin issuing rebates before the 2011 tornado season begins.

If our application is approved for funding, here are a few basic things you might want to know about the program.

How will I apply? Once the project is funded, the PRPC will post a residential rebate guide and application form on its website at: www.theprpc.org. The program guide will lay out the procedures for the rebate application and selection process. We'll also mail the rebate guide and application form to you upon request.

How large will the rebates be? The Residential Safe Room Rebate Program is designed to reimburse a home owner, a builder, or a developer 50% (not to exceed \$3,000.00) of the cost to install a National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) tornado shelter in (or around) a home.

Will I be eligible for a rebate? This program will be open to all residents within the 26-county area of the Texas Panhandle. To be eligible for a rebate, you must own or be the builder/developer of the home in which the shelter will be installed. You can install a shelter next to a modular home provided; you own the home and the land on which the shelter will sit.

What types of shelters will be allowed? This program will assist with installation of a variety of shelter types including, above-ground shelters, below-ground shelters or in-home shelters. However, any shelter installed under this program will have to meet the FEMA 320 standards and be certified for resiliency and safety by the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA).

How many rebates will be available? The PRPC has requested funding to cover at least 350 rebate commitments. If we receive more requests for rebates than our current funding will support, we will request additional grant funding for the program.

How much will a shelter cost? We can't tell you what they cost today but when we operated this same program between 2006 and 2009, the average shelter cost was right around \$5,400.00; which covered the entire cost of the shelter including installation. Costs will vary based on the size and type installed. Generally speaking, the below-ground shelters are the least expensive but if you're looking for a shelter, you'll need to find the type that will best meet your particular needs. For instance, if you have mobility challenges, you may not be able to climb down into a below ground shelter; an above ground shelter might be more to your liking.

Who can install my shelter? Anyone who has been certified by the NSSA. Once our program has been approved, the PRPC will publish a list of known NSSA-certified installers in the area. We'll then encourage you as a consumer, to comparison shop to find the shelter/installer that will best serve your needs.

Where can I get more information? If you have questions about the program or the status of our grant application, please contact either Elizabeth True or John Kiehl, with the PRPC, at (806) 372-3318. If you'd like to register to receive a personal notice when the program officially begins, please click on this link: <http://registry.i-info.com/PRPC/SafeRoom>