



**Where
will
you go
when a
storm
nears?**



Visit our web site to review many other considerations on storm shelter quality and occupant safety.

[**www.nssa.cc**](http://www.nssa.cc)

Includes:

1. A list of qualified members with contact information
2. List of qualified design professionals
3. Complete & updated copy of the NSSA Industry Standard
4. Officers, directors, contacts, links & more

Related web sites:

Texas Tech University
[**www.wind.ttu.edu**](http://www.wind.ttu.edu)

**Federal Emergency
Management Agency**
[**www.fema.gov**](http://www.fema.gov)

NSSA is a Non-Profit 501 (c) 6 Organization

1-877-700-NSSA (6772)



P.O. Box 41023 • Lubbock, TX 79409-1023

Trust the
**National
Storm
Shelter
Association**
for Quality Verification



NSSA Seal of Quality





A well-designed storm shelter offers safety from extreme weather events and peace of mind in knowing that a safe place is always available for your family.

Coming from a need for consistency of protection in storm shelters, the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) was formed in 2001. The driving forces behind this creation were engineers who had worked and studied in wind engineering and sciences much of their careers. Additionally, a few shelter producers recognized the need for quality assurance for safety and health issues.

NSSA's quality verification program has an independent third-party engineering firm evaluate shelter designs for compliance with established standards. Upon completion of installation, producers of qualified shelters affix a seal to the shelter attesting that design and construction comply with the NSSA standard. The seal bears a serial number that is registered with NSSA.



What You Should Know

- Currently there are no construction regulations in the storm shelter industry to protect the consumer. Few producers are willing to bear the costs of quality verification.
- There are many products for sale that have no engineering documentation to verify quality and safety.
- There are three critical protective functions a storm shelter should provide: stop flying debris, resist wind loads, and provide ventilation.
- Neither FEMA nor any university certifies shelter designs or products.
FEMA has published information on how to build very prescriptive (exact) examples, but they make no recommendations regarding manufactured shelters.
Texas Tech University and others perform certain testing and engineering functions but do not approve or certify shelters.
- The International Code Council (ICC) and NSSA are developing a comprehensive shelter standard that will be available for building code adoption in 2007.
- The ICC/NSSA Standard will cover all types and sizes of shelters for both tornadoes and hurricanes.



Important to You

- NSSA is the only non-profit organization defining performance criteria and verifying standards compliance for tornado and hurricane shelters.
- The NSSA's quality verification process incorporates having product designs evaluated by a wind engineering expert for compliance with the NSSA Standard for shelter quality.
- A seal is applied to shelters produced by NSSA members attesting to their quality and safety as defined by the NSSA Standard.
- NSSA is the only non-profit organization in existence with a quality verification process and seal program.
- The NSSA Standard, on the web at www.nssa.cc, reflects development of the ICC/NSSA Standard.
- You should purchase only shelters that have been verified to meet the NSSA Standard and display the NSSA seal. Site-built shelters that follow prescriptive FEMA designs (e.g., FEMA 320) or use a design from a registered professional engineer with wind engineering experience may also qualify for a NSSA seal.

