



FEMA

School-Based Safe Rooms Arkansas Protects 100,000 Children

The State of Arkansas - From 1950 through 2003, Arkansas has been affected by 1497 tornadoes. More recent tornado data through 2003 indicates an average of 27.7 tornadoes occur annually in Arkansas. In 1999, Arkansas was slammed with 107 tornados, which is the most for a single year in the State's history.

More than 100,000 children, teachers, and local residents in 60 school districts across Arkansas are safer because of safe rooms built to protect them through mitigation grants from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is now part of the Department of Homeland Security. The "Arkansas School Safe Room Program" began during Disaster 1266 in 1999 and has continued through Disaster 1516 in 2004.

At least 350,000 square feet of shelter space has been constructed during this period totaling 66 safe rooms across the State. These rooms are being used on a daily basis by the schools as libraries, computer rooms or physical education areas. Parents and friends can rest assured their children are safe from tornados during school hours. At a cost of only \$395 per child, this is one of the most proactive mitigation actions in the nation.



State-wide,
Arkansas



Quick Facts

Sector:

Public/Private Partnership

Cost:

\$39,510,253.00 (Actual)

Primary Activity/Project:

Safe Rooms/Community Shelters

Primary Funding:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)