

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
for the City of Emory/Rains County Tornado Shelter Project
Rains County, Texas
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Project PDMC-PJ-06-TX-2005-035**

Interested persons are hereby notified that Rains County, Texas has applied for Pre-Disaster Mitigation - Competitive (PDM-C) program funding under Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants funds under this program for pre-disaster mitigation activities which reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

FEMA proposes to assist Rains County in the construction of a 6,000 square-foot Safe Room/Tornado Shelter on a 0.9-acre site located at 110 Rhodes Drive in Emory, Texas. The 0.9-acre proposed project site is the northern portion of a 1.9-acre parcel which was formerly developed and functioned as a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) maintenance and storage facility. The proposed Safe Room/Tornado Shelter will be a 60-foot by 100-foot, single-story, above-ground structure constructed with reinforced masonry designed to withstand 250-mile-per-hour winds. The shelter will be accessible 24 hours per day and is designed to accommodate 800 people during daytime emergencies and 200 people at night. The proposed project would also include the construction of a parking area sufficient to accommodate the shelter's capacity. The required site work will consist of the demolition of all structures and the clearance of vegetation within the 0.9 acre project area to minimize the danger of projectiles in the event of a tornado. The proposed facility will tie into existing public utilities and infrastructure located on-site.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm> or viewed at the following locations:

- Rains County Library - 150 Doris Briggs Parkway, Emory, Texas 75440
- Emory City Hall – 399 N. Texas Street, Emory, Texas 75440

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date of **December 18, 2007**. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final

and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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