



FEMA

Community Supports Safe Room

Calumet, OK - Before 2004, when weather threatened Oklahoma skies, students and staff of Maple School in Calumet were bused to nearby country homes with storm cellars. Immediately following the devastating May 3, 1999 tornado that touched down in nearby Moore, the community realized they needed a better plan. Town officials applied through the State Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to build a school safe room.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provided 75 percent of construction costs, and the community provided the remaining 25 percent. The community was able to raise money quickly, and the safe room was finished in just 18 months - well ahead of schedule.

With the safe room finished, the school holds timed drills on a regular basis. In just under five minutes, teachers, staff, and 120 students from kindergarten through eighth grade can take their places in the new safe room. The 1,080 square foot reinforced concrete building can hold 216 people.

When severe weather again threatened the area in 2007, parents, teachers, and students felt at ease with the safe room on the school grounds. Eccard said, "It's dangerous busing kids around town in bad weather. This safe room gives us a great alternative."



Canadian County,
Oklahoma



Quick Facts

Year:

2001

Sector:

Public/Private Partnership

Cost:

\$70,200.00 (Estimated)

Primary Activity/Project:

Safe Rooms/Community Shelters

Primary Funding:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)