

# FEMA Awards \$2.4 Million for Tornado Saferoom in St. Clair, Minn.

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Release Date: Tháng 3 21, 2022

**CHICAGO** – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released \$2,401,365 in Hazard Mitigation Assistance funds to the St. Clair School District to develop a multi-use community tornado saferoom. St. Clair Public School is in Blue Earth County, a tornado-prone area in southern Minnesota. This saferoom will provide safety from severe wind and tornadic events for up to 1,600 students, teachers, staff and nearby community members.

"The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding for mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disasters," said Moises Dugan, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region 5. "While we can't stop tornadoes, we can build secure, easily accessible safe rooms to keep people safe from harm during high-wind events."

People who live in the city of Wadena, Minnesota know what can happen when a tornado strikes a school. In 2010, an EF-4 tornado destroyed Wadena-Deer Creek High School during a severe weather outbreak. "Fortunately, that storm struck during the summer when school was not in session, but it gave emergency managers a clear-eyed look at what could happen if people don't have a place to take refuge from violent weather," said Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Joe Kelly. "The people of St. Clair will be protected from severe weather thanks to this wise investment of mitigation dollars by the federal government and the local community."

For this project, FEMA will pay 75 percent of the \$3,201,820 eligible project cost. The remaining 25 percent of the funds, \$800,455, will be provided by the St. Clair School District. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to state, tribal and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures to reduce the risks associated with natural hazards. To learn more about FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, visit [www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation](http://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation).



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