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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio EMA Now Accepting Applications for Tornado Safe Room Rebates

Hamilton County, OH — Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) is excited to announce that the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program is once again offering rebates to help Ohio homeowners construct/install tornado safe rooms on their properties.

In 2019, the National Weather Service confirmed 21 tornadoes struck Ohio during the late night/early morning of May 27-28. The tornadoes killed two people and caused an estimated \$1 billion in damages, proving to be the most destructive natural disaster in Ohio history.

“The 2019 Memorial Day Tornado Outbreak included one EF4 tornado, three EF3 tornadoes, and four EF2s, with the EF4 producing winds up to 170 miles per hour,” said Ohio EMA Director Sima Merick. “A tornado safe room is built to withstand wind speeds up to 250 mph, or an EF5 tornado, and can provide occupants near-absolute protection from damaging winds and airborne debris.”

A safe room is a structure specifically designed to provide near-absolute protection in extreme weather events and can be installed in the basement, beneath a concrete slab-on-grade foundation or garage floor, or in an interior room on the first floor. A safe room may also be buried in the yard or be a stand-alone structure near the home.

Residents selected for the program could be eligible for a rebate up to 75 percent of the cost to install or construct a saferoom –up to a maximum of \$4,875. The Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program uses a computerized random selection process to select applicants. A priority list of applicants will be created from the selected applicants. Chosen homeowners will be notified by e-mail of their position on the priority list on or after March 12. Ohio EMA anticipates grant funding to become available this year and will develop a list of participants who meet program requirements and will expedite the rebate process.

Hamilton County EMSHA encourages homeowners to apply for the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program using the Ohio EMA website: https://ema.ohio.gov/ema_saferoom/saferoom-concept.aspx. Interested homeowners have until 5 p.m. on March 5, 2021 to register for the program.

SAFE ROOM REBATES

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