

ICC-500

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International Code Council &
National Storm Shelter Association

ICC/NSSA Standard on the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters

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**ICC/NSSA
Standard on the
Design and Construction
of Storm Shelters**

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ICC/NSSA

Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters

FOREWORD

[The information contained in this foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. As such, this foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to this standard.]

Introduction

In May of 2002 the International Code Council (ICC) and the National Storm Shelter Association (NSSA) initiated a joint project to write a standard for the design and construction of storm shelters. The scope of the standard is for shelters from storms that produce high winds, hurricanes, and tornados. Hurricanes and tornados produce high winds that produce pressures and generate flying debris at much higher levels than that which most commercial building and residences are designed. The levels of these storms are such that building occupants and residents are required to evacuate the area or seek protection in a shelter designed for resistance to extraordinary loads and flying debris. This standard provides structural design requirements for these shelters, and provides basic occupant life safety and health safety requirements for these shelters, including means of egress, lighting, sanitation, ventilation, fire safety, and minimum required floor space for occupants.

The consensus process of ICC for promulgating standards is accredited by ANSI. The Storm Shelter Committee, identified as IS-STM, is a balanced committee formed and operated in accordance with ICC rules and procedures.

Development

This is the first edition of the International Code Council (ICC) and National Storm Shelter Association's *Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters*. This standard was developed by the ICC/NSSA Consensus Committee on Storm Shelters (IS-STM) that operates under ANSI Approved ICC Consensus Procedures for the Development of ICC Standards. The consensus process of ICC for promulgating standards is accredited by ANSI. The Storm Shelter Committee, identified as IS-STM, is a balanced committee formed and operated in accordance with ICC rules and procedures.

The meetings of the ICC/NSSA IS-STM Consensus Committee were open to the public and interested individuals and organizations from across the country participated. The technical content of currently published documents on storm shelters, including documents of the National Storm Shelter Association, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Red Cross, and the State of Florida, was reviewed and considered by the committee. The information from these documents helped form a basis for the regulations installed in this standard, but the exact provisions adopted by the committee were determined based upon the scope and intent of this standard. The requirements of ICC/NSSA _____ are based on the intent to establish provisions consistent with the scope of the ICC family of codes and standards that are written to adequately protect public health, safety, and welfare; provisions that do not necessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products, or methods of construction.

Adoption

ICC/NSSA _____ *Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions throughout the United States. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws. At the time of adoption, jurisdictions should insert the appropriate information in provisions requiring specific local information, such as the name of the jurisdiction.

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