The Importance of Opening Protective Systems in Shelter Operations

Presenter
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FEMA Identifies The Importance Of Shelter Doors

- FEMA developed new door fact sheets for community and residential shelters in Nov. 2018
  - Independent certified labels are required on all doors
  - Installation of hardware requires inspection to verify that it was installed per manufacturers installation instructions
  - Maintenance and inspection schedules are recommended

Importance of Signage

- Terminology is very important
  - Storm shelter: A building (or portion thereof) that provides life-safety protection from severe wind events. They are designed and constructed to meet ICC 500 criteria.
  - Safe room: A storm shelter (see above) specifically designed to meet additional FEMA P-361 Recommended Criteria. Safe rooms provide near-absolute life-safety protection in severe wind events.
  - Best available refuge areas: A temporary area in an existing building that has been deemed by a registered design professional to be least vulnerable to tornado damage. Since refuge areas do not meet ICC 500 criteria, occupants may still be injured or killed during severe wind events. Warning: Refuge areas are often mislabeled as ‘Shelters’

Securing Shelter Doors

- Most shelter doors require a physical key or electronic hardware with some other form of credentialing (card/fob/chip) to gain access to shelter (Needs someone on-site with key)
- Some shelters utilize a knox box on the exterior of the building holding a key to gain entry. The code for this box would be held by a first responder that has been assigned to open the shelter during a storm warning. The code could be passed on by phone to someone at the shelter if no one shows up by someone in the emergency call center.
- Shelters can now be opened remotely using on-line systems or cell technology today.

Remote Unlocking

Mobile access is the use of a mobile device (e.g. smartphone, tablet or wearable) to gain access to secured doors, gates, networks, services and more. Our solutions allow organizations to meet the growing demands of a mobile-first world.