

Memo

To: Richmond R-XVI Stakeholders

From: Jeff Southwick, Director of Building and Grounds

Date: January 6, 2022

Re: Richmond R-XVI Community Tornado Shelter

Peak tornado season is here. While all natural disasters are devastating, tornadoes can strike in an instant and cause unimaginable damage, making them one of nature's most violent storms. Tornadoes can unfortunately happen anytime, anywhere and to anyone. On March 2, 2017 an F3 tornado devastated many areas in Oak Grove, Missouri. This letter is to inform you that the Richmond R-XVI Community Tornado Shelter is accessible during tornadoes. The tornado shelter is located on the south side of Dear Elementary School Building located at the intersection of Main and Institute Streets.

The tornado shelter is owned by the Richmond R-XVI School District and its first function is to provide protection for the Dear Elementary students and staff (343) during tornado and extreme high wind events during schools hours 7:45 AM – 3:00 PM.

The tornado shelter will be available for residents in the community that do not have basements or other safe rooms and live within what we refer to as the "Tornado Protection Zone" (TPZ).

The Tornado Protection Zone (TPZ) is intended for persons within a five minute drive time to the tornado protection zone during normal school hours (7:45 AM – 3:00 PM Monday-Friday) during the school year. Due to estimated time necessary to reach the shelter after a siren warning has been given and the maximum occupancy capacity of 849 persons including the student body and staff, the Tornado Shelter cannot provide shelter for those once the occupancy limit has been reached.

After school hours or on the weekend, there is an emergency plan in place to assist those in time of need to seek shelter. The Community Storm Shelter will be open to those that are within a five minute drive time of the tornado protection zone. The Tornado Shelter will remain open to the community until the occupancy level of 849 has been reached, then the facility will be secured. Once community members are inside, they will not be allowed to leave the said area until the tornado warning has been lifted.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 816-776-6912 or contact me by e-mail at jsouthwick@richmondspartans.org. You can also go to the school's website at www.richmondspartans.org and click on the Tornado Shelter link for more information.