

BIRMINGHAM – U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) announced today that Alabama will receive a \$633,504 grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to build tornado safe rooms and community shelters.

"Recently, Alabama saw the loss of 12 lives due to tornadoes. We have learned time and time again how vulnerable we are to natural disasters. A safe room is a life saver when a tornado strikes. This federal grant will help provide a refuge for our families," said Bachus. "Today's technology in almost every case gives people significant warning to take cover. What people need is a place to go. A safe room is the only means of providing near absolute protection for you and your family. This grant will fund projects that will do just that."

This program's goal is to reduce the loss of life, property, and goods due to natural disasters. FEMA will provide 75 percent, \$475,128 of the total project funding of \$633,504. Local governments, private non-profits, or individuals who participate will contribute the remaining 25 percent, \$158,376.

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency will administer the safe room program. County emergency management directors will be notified of established state funding priorities and when funds are available. Residents interested in constructing safe rooms must contact their county emergency managers for program details.

This is the second time Alabama has received a FEMA Safe Room Grant. The first, awarded in March 2001, was for \$2.7 million.