



Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

100 N. Union Street, Suite 382
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3762

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 304451
Montgomery, AL 36130-4451

Dr. Robert J. Bentley
Governor

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Regina A. Dinger
Executive Director

Phone: (334) 242-5568
Toll Free: (866) 461-7640
Fax: (334) 242-5105
www.bels.alabama.gov

Dear Concerned Home Owner:

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has the responsibility to license individuals who practice in the engineering and land surveying professions in Alabama. You have contacted our office to determine if we can assist you in assessing the quality of the installation of a safe room, sometimes referred to as a storm shelter.

We are aware of the problems individuals may be having with their safe rooms and can understand your concerns. It is our understanding that you are seeking an engineer to inspect your safe room to determine if it meets FEMA requirements or if there are problems with the system.

We do not have a licensed engineer on staff so we are not able to conduct any inspection using in-house resources. As the state licensing board we are not at liberty to recommend any particular engineer. The state licenses professional engineers in a general category i.e. we do not issue licenses that identify individuals by a specific engineering discipline (civil engineer, structural engineer, mechanical engineer, etc.). Professional Engineers are responsible for practicing only in those areas in which they are competent. Many engineers belong to professional societies for the disciplines in which they practice.

From what we know it would appear that initially you may want to obtain the services of a licensed professional engineer who practices in the area of structural engineering. To assist you in your efforts to seek the guidance of a professional engineer we are providing you four recommendations:

1. A list of all licensed professional engineers residing in the northern part of Alabama and southern Tennessee is enclosed. Directly contact an individual on the list, identifying what you are seeking.
2. The State Fire Marshal's office has offered to have his inspectors do a cursory inspection of your home. This inspection would not be an engineering inspection but it could identify problems which would then require you to seek an engineer's opinion. Mr. Ed Paulk, State Fire Marshal can be reached at 334-241-4166.
3. Contact the Structural Engineers Association of Alabama. Their executive director has identified to me that she will not provide you a copy of their membership list, but would disseminate your request to their membership. It would be up to their members to contact you directly. The association's contact information is Rhea Williams, phone 205-601-2345 or rhea@karmamanagementinc.com.
4. Check your local phone book under the Structural Engineer section of the classifieds. Then check that name with those on the list we provided.

We are continuing to coordinate our efforts with other state agencies. You may want to contact your local building permitting officials, if there is one in your area. As these investigations continue, our investigators may be in touch with you. If at any time during this process you believe that an individual regulated by this board has not performed at the standards they should have, please contact our office to file a complaint.

If you need further assistance from this office, I can be reached at regina.dinger@bels.alabama.gov or our toll free number is 866-461-7640.

Sincerely,

Regina A Dinger
Executive Director