

# NEWS RELEASE



## Touchmark at Coffee Creek

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TOUCHMARK SHELTER OPEN TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY**

EDMOND, Okla. — Residents in the vast Coffee Creek neighborhood in north Edmond can turn to the nearby Touchmark active adult community for safety when a tornado strikes. Touchmark at Coffee Creek is offering its underground parking and adjacent shelter in case those in the nearby neighborhood need protection in case of a tornado.

Touchmark's total underground area covers nearly 20,000 square feet, which includes almost 13,000 square feet of parking.

“Anything below ground and reinforced up to standard” is the safest place to be during a tornado, says Matt Stillwell, the city of Edmond's Emergency Management director. “Just the fact people can walk in makes the Touchmark shelter a positive venue during a storm.”

“If people have made Touchmark part of their personal emergency response plan, and they can get there quickly and easily, then they should seek shelter there,” he adds.

In addition to the parking garage, there are two indoor rooms that include a big-screen television, several tables and sofas, nearby restrooms and emergency water and food supplies. Normally, the room is used by Touchmark residents as a game room.

According to Touchmark Executive Director Jamie Ham, many residents are from the era



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known as the Greatest Generation, men and women who fought in World War II. This explains why residents dubbed the storm shelter “the bunker.” Bunkers—or underground shelters—were used extensively in both world wars as safe havens during attacks.

“The residents have decorated the room with memorabilia from all branches of the Armed Forces,” says Ham, adding, “We are pleased to open our underground areas for the broader community during a tornado alert.”

Stillwell emphasizes that citizens prepare a personal emergency response plan and register their storm shelter with the city so that emergency workers may check shelters and find people after a tornado. To get a free copy of a booklet, citizens can call (405) 359-4564. Or, people can access the booklet or register their shelter online at [www.edmondok.com](http://www.edmondok.com).

“A response plan can include having the necessary items stocked in case of a storm, going to an interior room or moving to a nearby neighbor’s shelter, such as you have with Touchmark,” says Stillwell.

Touchmark is the only retirement community in the Edmond area that includes a storm shelter. The community offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options and is located just north of Covell Road between Broadway and Kelly. For more information, contact Touchmark at (405) 340-1975 or visit Touchmark’s Web site at [TouchmarkEdmond.com](http://TouchmarkEdmond.com).

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**Photo provided/Caption:**

Touchmark at Coffee Creek provides a “great option” for a storm shelter to the Coffee Creek neighborhood, says Edmond Emergency Management Director Matt Stillwell, pictured in “the bunker” with Touchmark Executive Director Jamie Ham, right.