

## **STORM REFUGE AREAS**

---

**Intent:** All new campus structures which are expected to be occupied on a regular basis by students, staff, faculty or the public shall provide storm refuge area(s). The intent of the storm refuge areas structural performance is to provide appropriate emergency refuge for all but the most severe (category EF-4 or higher) tornadic events which according to the National Weather Service are rare in Illinois, (only one F-4 tornado was documented in Champaign County since 1950).

**Size of Storm Refuge Area:** The size of the storm refuge area shall be calculated by providing five (5) square feet of clear floor area within the refuge areas for each occupant of the building. The actual occupant count shall be used when possible. Any unassigned floor areas within the building will be added to the occupant count using the occupant load factors as set by the applicable provisions of the International Building Code (IBC).

**Structural Design Criteria:** The refuge area shall have the design capacity to resist the wind forces associated with Class EF-3 tornadic events. (3-second gust speeds of up to 167 miles per hour).

**Graphic Designation of Storm Refuge Areas:** The PSC shall designate the location of the storm refuge area(s) on the Life Safety plan sheets for the building. The location of the refuge areas will be shown on the building directory and shall be marked as "Storm Refuge Area" at the entry points to all such areas.

**Access to Storm Refuge Areas:** Access to all refuge areas shall be readily available for those persons authorized to be in the building. If additional refuge areas are available, but not readily accessible to the building occupants, a plan for accessing such areas in the event of a tornado warning must be developed by the building user and made available to all building occupants.