

Bio: Dirk DeRose

Dirk entered the storm shelter industry from the world of commercial aviation. For ten years he worked on aircraft structures built by Boeing, McDonnell-Douglas and Airbus, including the repair of metal components. In 1998 while he was also developing a residential airpark near Claremore, OK, the time had come to decide on a storm shelter for the DeRose home. The offerings for residential shelters at that time were limited to those buried outside, but Dirk felt there were other ways to shelter. A local gentleman sold Dirk a crude steel box he said was a storm shelter and installed it in the garage of the new home. The destruction of Moore on May 3rd, 1999 caused a change of focus. Within a month, Dirk left his career to develop a truly safe above-ground shelter and also met Dr. Kiesling for the first time at an event in Tulsa.

Dirk's was the first of the now-ubiquitous rectangular steel shelters to pass the projectile impact testing at TTU. Dirk joined National Storm Shelter Association on day one of its existence as the founding Treasurer.

Observing that space-efficiency was very important for many garages, Dirk designed the New Day shelter in 2008 to be cylindrical steel, capped with a dome. This form allows more couples, small families and retirees to own a shelter and therefore to shelter in place rather than leaving their homes during a high wind event. Dirk also welcomes the broadening of emphasis in NSSA toward community shelters, encouraging contracting firms and design professionals to join up.

Dirk DeRose, President
The SafeDome Company
Dbas New Day Tornado Shelters
6040 E TECUMSEH ST
TULSA OK 74115
(918) 277-3758

DirkDeRose@aol.com

NewDayTornadoShelters.com