

NNTC Business Spotlight:

# McAtee Concrete Construction

Malmo, NE



**Ray McAtee stands outside of a newly constructed storm shelter.**

"They're a lot safer than a basement," says Ray McAtee, owner of McAtee Concrete Construction.

Ray has been in the concrete business for over 50 years. He likes to say he's seen and done it all over five decades of work, but just this past March, he added something new to the concrete mix.

"This was a lot more than I dreamed of really, so it's been interesting," he says.

Along with his two sons, Lucas and Tommy, the trio is Nebraska's newest supplier of pre-cast storm shelters.

"People were approaching us wanting to turn septic tanks into storm shelters... and that wasn't something we were interested in," Ray says.

But the same Texas company that designs their septic tanks also developed a purpose-built storm shelter, and the McAtees were on board.

The shelters are super heavy duty, weighing 16,000 pounds or *eight* tons.

"Take an average Ford F-150 or a Chevy 1500, it's like putting four of them together. They're super heavy. And with all the rebar and five-inch walls, they're pretty stout," explains Lucas.

Built with rebar-reinforced concrete, each unit includes a ventilation system and a specially engineered door strong enough to withstand an EF-4 tornado.

"They're FEMA rated. They test them down at Texas Tech. They launch two-by-fours at the doors, and they have to withstand impacts at 200 miles per hour. That's why we don't just go to



**Lucas McAtee points out the ventilation system coming up through the rebar before the concrete is poured to form a storm shelter.**





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a fabrication shop for the doors. These are tested. It's the most important part," says Lucas.

The doors feature three locking points from the inside and include a cylinder and chain to keep the door secure. Once inside the 11<sup>3/4</sup>-by- 5<sup>1/3</sup> foot shelter, it comfortably fits eight adults.

The cost for a shelter and peace of mind is \$4,500, plus a \$4 per loaded mile delivery charge. For example, if you live 100 miles from their shop in Malmo, Nebraska, delivery would cost \$400.

"You dig, we set," says Lucas. As long as the hole is ready, they can install the shelter 30 to 40 inches underground.

In addition to storm shelters, McAtee Concrete Construction also makes septic tanks, concrete Lego blocks, fire pits, feed bunks, and more. All concrete is made and poured on-site in Malmo.

To learn more, visit their website (powered by NNTC internet) at [www.McAteeConstruction.com](http://www.McAteeConstruction.com).



Lucas pours concrete into the rebar shell that will form a storm shelter, while his brother Tommy works on finishing a septic tank in the background.



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