

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

Little Rock, Arkansas

“We used a concept of simple shapes and practical architectural features for the exterior building design. This pleasing appearance was accomplished with structural horizontal and vertical precast panels, with an exterior of exposed aggregate, sand blasted surfaces, and reveals on each panel. The precast was so economical that the owners were able to include additional building enhancements, such as an emergency generator, a back-up communications tower system, and an extra building to house a mobile command.”

*H. Terry Rasco, FAIA
Witsell Evans Rasco
Architects/Planners*

**CORESLAB.
STRUCTURES
(ARK) INC.**

Conway, AR
(501) 329-3763
www.coreslab.com



“The bottom line is the functionality of the building. We wanted to have as much function built into the building for responding to any disaster or emergency; and frankly, I think we’ve done a pretty good job of being good stewards of the State’s money.”

*www.adem.arkansas.gov
Arkansas Department of
Emergency Management*

The design challenge of this project was building a tornado shelter which could operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for emergency management employees and key state officials in a functional, safe, and attractive work environment. The building would be required to house employees and state officials for extended periods of time and protect them during tornados, emergencies or disasters.

After assessing the capabilities of precast concrete, the architect and contractor chose precast wall panels. The native gray aggregate in the area was selected as the color for the attractive exposed aggregate panels because it suited the natural environment around the project location and provided a pleasing appearance for employees, state officials, and visitors. The precast plant was in close proximity to the job site, which kept energy costs for transportation and erection to a minimum. Precast concrete was also chosen for it’s extreme impact and wind load performance needed to meet the requirements for protecting occupants and valuable equipment from a category F-4 tornado.

