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TornadoPod's Search for Extreme Protection Leads to Innegra

Greenville, SC I April, 2016. In April of 2011, a massive tornado hit Tuscaloosa, AL leaving a trail of death and destruction. Debris in some places piled as high as three feet leaving many trapped in their storm shelters unable to open the hinged door due to the weight of the debris. Inventor Wes Kouba, President of TornadoPod, knew there had to be a better solution to protect families during such a devastating tornado.

"We wanted to construct a shelter with a sliding door which can easily be removed by extracting hinge pins from the inside and releasing the door from the pod if necessary", said Kouba. In 2012 Kouba applied for a patent on his invention of the TornadoPod and in 2014 a US patent was issued.

Finding the right materials to withstand such force was another challenge to overcome. When Kouba came across the properties of Innegra it was a natural draw. "Our idea was to use modern material science to develop a safety pod for use by families and individuals to protect them from flying debris during a tornado. After several years of searching for a solution, we were pleased to announce that Innegra has been absolutely instrumental in helping us reach this point in our development", added Kouba.

Innegra is used on the outer shell as a ballistic shield which has been tested against the FEMA 320/361 criteria for Windborne Debris Hazards which requires the exposed surfaces of tornado shelters to be tested to emulate wind speeds of 250 mph. The required test is a 15-lb sawn lumber, 2x4 missile impacting the exposed surfaces at 100 mph.

The Innegra team has been working hand-in-hand with the TornadoPod team to make this project a success. "The expertise, support and guidance they provided was outstanding. Russell Emanis, Sr. Composite Engineer, has been absolutely critical to the success achieved to date. His guidance and product knowledge coupled with the outstanding performance of the Innegra fibers has resulted in our ability to surpass our design criteria and pass our certification tests," states Kouba.

TornadoPods are now on the market being sold to home owners in areas likely affected by storms of high caliber. “We are delighted to continue our development of the TornadoPod and begin production. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Innegra and the success of the TornadoPod.”

You can find pricing and more information about TornadoPod at www.tornadopod.com. Watch a news segment on the testing of the TornadoPod at http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/369213991.html.

About TornadoPod

Headquartered in Frisco, Texas, TornadoPod is a revolutionary shelter system made in the USA designed to offer protection during the storm and allow people to exit the shelter without becoming trapped by storm debris. TornadoPod was issued a US patent for their technology in 2015.

About Innegra Technologies

Innegra Technologies, headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina, is an advanced materials company that delivers innovative high performance fibers which improve the performance of composite and textile applications. Innegra S has an extensive patent portfolio in the U.S.A and international. Worldwide, Innegra is distributed and used in a wide range of reinforcement products. Find more information at www.innegratech.com