

# VAUGHN CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.

1-877-827-8255

Storm Shelter Operation Instructions & Warnings

## **\*CAREFULLY AND FULLY READ ALL OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS\***

Congratulations!! You have purchased what is arguably the highest quality and safest steel reinforced precast concrete storm shelter available today. To get the most from your shelter there are several things you need to know:

**WARNING!!** The emergency door lifter escape bar provided with your shelter requires as little as 50 pounds of force to lift the heavy steel door from its hinges. When the door lifter escape bar is used as instructed the door can fall away uncontrollably & depending on the quantities of debris in front of the unit this lift off door system is made to hopefully provide means for exiting the structure. This door lifter escape bar is dangerous and should ONLY be used in the event you are blocked from leaving your shelter. Children and other persons with weak limbs should NEVER be allowed to use this lever to remove the door. The door is VERY HEAVY and can cause serious injury and even death if it were to fall on someone on the outside.

**KEEP THIS DOOR LIFTER ESCAPE BAR INSIDE YOUR SHELTER AND LOCKED SAFELY AWAY FROM CHILDREN!!**

The Black “T” Shaped outside door handle fits into the hexagon hole in the middle of the metal door. Rotate the handle *fully* away from the top hinge to unfasten the door so it will swing open. Rotate the handle *fully* towards the top hinge to latch the door. To prevent interference of the latching bars with the metal door frame the handle should be in the fully open position at all times the door is being swung open or is being closed. *It is your choice as to whether you store the “T” handle in its inserted position or you choose to remove it for safe keeping in another location.*

To secure the door closed once you are inside the shelter simply rotate the inside handle to the fully locked position. You should lock the handle’s movement by inserting the Quick Link attached to the chain in the appropriate holes. This will prevent the mechanism from vibrating loose and anyone outside from entering the shelter even if the black “T” handle is inserted into the opening slot.

The door is very strong and VERY heavy so exercise extreme caution to keep all hands and feet clear of pinch points when opening and closing the door.

You should periodically inspect and tighten all door bolts connecting the latching bar mechanisms to the vertical master bar. You should regularly grease the outside hinges and handle pivot to ensure moisture can’t enter the space and rust does not build up and make removing or latching the door difficult.

If your shelter is located outside, rainwater or snow may get inside. This is of virtually no concern. If you have an epoxy anchored Shelter, when installing your shelter we intentionally left “gaps” in the epoxy anchoring system (usually near the shelters corners) to allow for water to drain away should some enter. Sometimes, you can see light entering these gaps. This is proper and should cause no concern. The self standing units or buried door type units have a sump hole and should be placed on a large gravel bed or sand for drainage. The door on all shelters are designed to have a significant open space at the bottom to assure the door will swing open and to help reduce the amount the door will bang in extreme winds.

Your new storm shelter can save the lives of you and your family *but only if you use it*. Please *use it when a storm threatens*. Remember, the safest shelter is the one you will use! Don’t hesitate to seek the safety of your shelter earlier rather than later. It is imperative you notify someone each time you use your shelter so they can have someone check on you at a later time if you haven’t responded after your agreed time – Set up a buddy system.

**Customer Received Copy of Instructions & Warnings:** Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
NSSA Tag # \_\_\_\_\_