

Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Policy Proposal Adopted 7/14/09

Seismic Hazards Identified for K – 12 Facilities

Issue:

Need to report the results of the 2007 Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Study in a manner that results in citizens understanding the danger that these structures pose for students and the timeline for their repair or replacement and encourage public action to retrofit/replace facilities.

Findings:

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has completed a statewide survey to identify K-12 facilities with structural seismic hazards that pose a significant risk to our children and educators.

We need to constantly remind stakeholders that students and educators are at risk by having classes in buildings where there are identified and unidentified risks when a seismic event occurs.

We are also requesting additional requirements that will require unsafe schools to develop an action plan to address timelines and process for mitigating those identified seismic shortfalls in the 2007 Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Study in order to meet deadlines for rehabilitation work as outlined in ORS 455.400. This could minimize the loss of life and provide direction and guidance to students and educators in a seismic event.

Policy:

The State and school districts need to communicate directly to the stakeholders of buildings that are vulnerable to collapse, as reported in the 2007 Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Study, that the building(s) do not meet the basic seismic life-safety standards.

All K-12 facilities identified in the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Risk Report shall be required to develop an action plan for notifying stakeholders. The action plan should also address a process and timeline for repairing and upgrading facilities for mitigating identified seismic deficiencies.