



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Oregon Emergency Management

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To: Governor Kate Brown, Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney,
House Speaker Tina Kotek, State Resilience Officer Mike Harryman,
Legislative Assembly

From: Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)
Safety Assessment Program Work Group

Subject: Recommendations to create a Safety Assessment Program in Oregon

The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) is pleased to provide recommendations to create an Oregon Safety Assessment Program (OrSAP) to help local governments perform accurate assessments for safe occupancy of government, business, and residential buildings and facilities following an earthquake, flood or other hazards. The program, as an evolution of OAR 918-098-1600 (Post-Earthquake Damage Inspectors), will be made up of qualified volunteers who have ATC-20/45 certification and are registered with the State of Oregon who will work as evaluators with Local Government and State Government employees to do building safety assessments following a natural hazard event. The program would be run by a statewide Safety Assessment Coordinator who would be a State employee and be responsible of the following:

- Statewide implementation and coordination of OrSAP, including state agencies and local government;
- Oversight of all OrSAP training classes for Evaluators and local program Coordinators;
- Issue registration and identification cards, as required;
- Working with Oregon's professional organizations of architects, engineers, building officials, etc.;
- Certify new OrSAP Evaluator trainers through a train-the-trainer program; and
- Monitor OrSAP Training for quality.

Local Governments will be responsible for designating a local Coordinator, usually the Building Official, that's responsible for facilitating the deployment of OrSAP evaluators that includes developing and implementing the operational plan for evaluation of damaged buildings and managing evaluations. They will also coordinate the deputizing of OrSAP Evaluators and certified and registered Local and State employees as Deputy Building Inspectors to allow them to post official jurisdiction placards.

The assessments will consist of a Rapid Evaluation and Detailed Evaluations. The Rapid Evaluation will typically have a team of two who will do an initial assessment to post apparently safe, restricted use or obviously unsafe facilities. The Detailed Evaluation will include a building official, engineers, architects or other specialists to address a specific situation and will typically be done after a Rapid Evaluation.

OrSAP will not perform cost estimates for buildings they have evaluated, perform evaluations based on code compliance or provide escort or property retrieval for owners or occupants of buildings.

The assessment of damaged buildings marks the shift from first response to recovery efforts and is a critical element to allow building owners to start the process of reusing their buildings. Delays in this area greatly slow down recovery efforts.

OSSPAC respectfully recommends that the Legislature and/or Governor determine which agency should be responsible to house the OrSAP Safety Assessment Coordinator and that the Legislature provide adequate funds for full implementation of OrSAP.

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Physical Location: 3225 State Street, Room 115, Salem, Oregon

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