

ESP FOCUS

Assess the Damage



WHY?

After a damaging earthquake, determining the safety of homes, office buildings, schools and other facilities will be a major priority for local and state government.

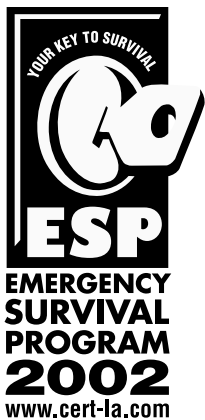
Forming a Damage Assessment Team is the next step in preparing your home, neighborhood, business, and school for the next earthquake.

The Damage Assessment Team identifies structures with obvious exterior damage. An effective team will reduce the number of hazards and injuries to family members, neighbors, and co-workers.

Damage will vary. The table below shows modeling projections for the number of buildings, and the extent of damage that might result from the potential earthquakes listed.

Earthquake Impacts	Elsinore Fault	Rose Canyon Fault	Santa Ynez Fault	Sierra Madre Fault
Magnitude	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0
No Damage	3,426,773	3,655,156	2,231,973	1,620,205
Slight Damage	428,004	264,472	177,483	692,092
Moderate Damage	166,494	128,668	63,320	338,026
Extensive Damage	52,379	31,835	14,128	84,965
Complete Damage	14,912	8,395	3,086	21,974

This Focus Sheet provides information on developing a Damage Assessment Team. Future ESP Focus Sheets will examine other issues related to preparedness.



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Flyer funded in part by a contribution from:

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O C T O B E R

Select a Damage Assessment Team

The Planning Committee should select a Damage Assessment Team.

The Damage Assessment Leader should have training as an architect, engineer or contractor. Members of the team should have, but do not necessarily need, similar training and backgrounds.

Pre-quake Responsibilities

Before the next earthquake, the Damage Assessment Team should:

- Encourage home and building owners to note the current "pre-disaster" conditions of their buildings.
- Survey buildings in the neighborhood to become familiar with the different types of construction and potential hazards.
- Develop a survey form to record the damage after an earthquake. It should list the following hazards:
 - Fires
 - Broken gas lines
 - Broken water lines
 - Fallen power lines
 - Buildings off their foundations
 - Buildings with collapsed walls or ceilings
 - Blocked or jammed doors
 - Toppled or cracked chimneys
 - Broken windows
 - Streets, driveways, lawns with large cracks
 - Trees that have fallen or might fall on a structure
 - Debris blocking the street

Post-quake Responsibilities

After the earthquake, the Damage Assessment Team should:

- Report to the designated meeting place for assignments.
- Begin damage assessments, using a preliminary damage survey form like the sample below.
- Determine obvious external damage only. **Never** enter a building that might be unsafe.
- Report the damage to appropriate authorities, insurance carriers, etc.
- Give the sheltering team the addresses of buildings that are too dangerous to occupy.
- Urge everyone to inventory and record, by photo or video, the damage and losses.
- Direct those who live in or occupy dangerous buildings to the sheltering team.
- Remind everyone about the possibility of aftershocks.

Initial Damage Survey Form

Date _____

Damage Assessment
Leader _____

___ Fires

___ Broken gas lines

___ Broken water lines

___ Downed power lines

___ Apts/houses off foundations

___ Apts/houses with collapsed walls or ceilings

___ Blocked or jammed doors

___ Toppled or cracked chimneys

___ Apts/ houses with broken windows

___ Large cracks in streets, driveways

___ Fallen trees on houses

___ Other damage



This action sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase emergency preparedness at home, in the community, at work and at school. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Southern California cities and counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.