

SIMPLE BUILDING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



This is a quick assessment of a structure for obvious structural and non-structural hazards, which needs to be completed after the initial shock as well as any subsequent aftershocks. If found, these hazards could make the structure or parts of the structure UNSAFE for continued use. Refer to Page 2 for visual examples.

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| STEP 1: Survey the Building from the Outside |
| Examine the structure on all accessible sides for damage. Look for cracking of exterior walls, broken glass and other signs of excessive drift. Examine exterior non-structural elements, such as cladding, parapets, signs, and ornamentation, for damage before entering the building. Look for new fractures in the foundation or exposed lower walls of the building. |
| STEP 2: Examine the Site for Geotechnical Hazards |
| Look for fissures, bulged ground, and vertical ground movements in the area. In hillside areas, examine the area for landslide displacement or debris encroaching onto the site. Remember that geotechnical hazards can extend over an area of several buildings or more. |
| STEP 3: Inspect the Structural System from Inside the Building |
| Before entering building, make sure you are wearing a safety hardhat and other protective gear, and look for falling or collapse hazards. Do not enter obviously unsafe buildings. Look in stairwells, corridors, classrooms, mechanical rooms and other exposed areas to view the structural system. Examine the vertical-load-carrying system. Look for situations where a column may show signs of failure, where the floor or roof framing has begun to pull away from its vertical supports, or where the slab or beam system has failed or begun to fail. Examine the lateral-load-carrying system. Any residual storey drift means some structural damage has been sustained. Inspect the lower floors and walls for cracks and bulges. |
| STEP 4: Inspect for Non-Structural Hazards |
| Inside the building, look for damage to non-structural elements such as ceilings, partitions, light fixtures, roof top tanks and other appendages. |
| STEP 5: Inspect for Other Hazards |
| If damage is suspected, elevators should not be restarted without inspection by a qualified person. Look for spills or leaks in areas of stored chemicals or other hazardous materials. Inspect stairs for structural stability and exits for jammed doors and obstructions. |

Evacuate and cordon off all UNSAFE AREA(S) to protect people and CONTACT MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTION.

SIMPLE BUILDING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT - EXAMPLES



Building has collapsed, partially collapsed, or moved off its foundation. Condition: **UNSAFE**



Building or any story is significantly out of plumb. Condition: **UNSAFE**



Obvious damage to primary structural elements, severe cracking of walls, or other signs of severe distress Condition: **UNSAFE**



Obvious parapet or other falling hazard. Condition: **AREA UNSAFE**



Large fissures in the ground, massive ground movement or slope displacement. Condition: **AREA UNSAFE**



Other hazard(s) present (e.g. toxic spill, ruptured gas line, downed powerline, overturned propane tank). Condition: **AREA UNSAFE**