

ATC-26-2

Procedures for Postdisaster Safety Evaluation of Postal Service Facilities (Interim)

Prepared for

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
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by

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Preface

In 1989, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), as part of a national emergency preparedness program, requested the Applied Technology Council (ATC), already under contract to USPS, to develop procedures for postdisaster safety evaluation of buildings. The procedures were to be based on those already developed for earthquakes by ATC-20 project participants, and were to include guidance for safety inspection after damaging winds, storms, and floods.

This ATC-26-2 report provides interim procedures and guidelines for determining if damaged buildings can be safely occupied. Also included are recommended posting procedures and placards. Disasters considered are those resulting from earthquakes (covered in the main body of the report), wind storm (Appendix F), and flood (Appendix G). As requested, the basic procedures and guidelines are based on those developed for earthquakes and originally documented in the ATC-20 report (ATC, 1989), which was written specifically for volunteer structural engineers and local building officials.

This is one of a series of reports being developed by ATC for the USPS under the ATC-26 project. Other reports being developed under this project cover topics such as cost projections for seismic evaluation and rehabilitation of USPS facilities (ATC-26 report), methods for seismic (pre-event) evaluation of USPS facilities (ATC-26-1 report), a field manual for postearthquake safety evaluation of USPS facilities (ATC-26-3 report), and seismic rehabilitation criteria and methodology (ATC-26-4 report). These reports are being developed by a team of subcontracting firms from California and other seismically active states.

Fluor Daniel, Inc., an architect/engineer/construction firm with experience in the seismic evaluation of buildings, served as one of two ATC-26-2 project subcontractors and prepared portions of this report relating to earthquakes. Fluor Daniel, Inc. incorporated the technical content of the ATC-20 report originally developed

for ATC by R.P. Gallagher Associates, Inc., and modified it to meet the needs of the U.S. Postal Service. The ATC-26-2 procedures were then written to allow maximum postearthquake participation by U.S. Postal Service engineers and Facility Managers. The research and engineering work was performed by Richard M. Drake and Philip J. Richter.

Lindbergh and Associates, an engineering firm with experience in postdisaster evaluation of buildings and disaster damage mitigation, served as the second ATC-26-2 subcontractor. Lindbergh and Associates adapted procedures for wind and flood damage evaluations (Appendices F and G) from the seismic procedures discussed in the main body of the report. Drs. Dale C. Perry and W. Lynn Beason provided consultation regarding wind damage evaluation.

Members of the Project Engineering Panel who provided general review and guidance for the project were: Joseph Nicoletti (Chair), Warner Howe, Charles Lindbergh, Rene Luft, Frank McClure, Richard Parmelee, Todd Perbix, Lawrence Reavely, and John Thiess. Joann Dennett of Rdd Consultants served as the Publications Consultant. The affiliations of these individuals are provided in Appendix A, which also includes a list of ATC-20 participants.

ATC gratefully acknowledges the valuable assistance, support and cooperation provided by Donald Evick, USPS Program Manager, and Thomas Sabol of Englekirk and Hart, ATC-26 Project Manager. ATC also acknowledges the original sponsors of the ATC-20 report: the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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Table of Contents

Preface.....	i
Illustration Credits.....	xiv
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Purpose and Scope.....	1
1.2 Technical Level of the Evaluation Procedures	1
1.3 Content and Organization of the Report.....	1
2. General Procedures for Building Safety Evaluation	3
2.1 Overview of Evaluation Procedures	3
2.2 Important Facilities.....	3
2.3 Right to Inspect.....	3
2.4 Posting Classification System.....	5
2.5 Building Evaluation Procedure.....	5
2.6 Posting and Barricading Procedures	6
2.7 Changing of Posting Classification	7
2.8 Earthquake Aftershocks.....	7
2.9 Use of Judgment Required	7
3. Initial Damage Report.....	9
3.1 Objective.....	9
3.2 Pre-Event Documentation.....	9
3.3 Inspection Procedure and Criteria	9
3.4 Safety of Damage Inspectors.....	9
4. Rapid Evaluation Method	11
4.1 Objective.....	11
4.2 Qualifications of Damage Inspectors.....	11
4.3 Rapid Evaluation Procedure and Criteria	11
5. Detailed Evaluation Method	17
5.1 Overview and Purpose.....	17
5.2 Qualifications of Damage Inspectors.....	17
5.3 Detailed Evaluation Objectives and Approach.....	17
5.4 General Detailed Evaluation Criteria	18
5.5 When the Structural System is Not Viewable	20
5.6 Posting Criteria	20
5.7 Detailed Evaluation Procedure	21
6. Inspection of Wood Frame Structures	27
6.1 Wood Frame Dwellings and Small Buildings	27
6.2 Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial Structures.....	32
7. Inspection of Masonry Structures	37
7.1 Unreinforced Masonry Construction.....	37
7.2 Reinforced Masonry Construction	44
8. Inspection of Tilt-up Structures	47
8.1 Tilt-up Structures.....	47
9. Inspection of Concrete Structures	53
9.1 Description of Structural Characteristics.....	53

9.2	Cast-in-Place Concrete Building Evaluation	54
9.3	Precast Element Structures.....	66
9.4	Lift-Slab Structures	66
10.	Inspection of Steel Frame Structures.....	71
10.1	Braced Steel Frames	71
10.2	Moment-Resisting Steel Frames	73
10.3	Prefabricated Metal Buildings.....	78
10.4	Steel Frame with Unreinforced Masonry Infill Walls.....	79
10.5	Steel Frame with Cast-in-Place Concrete or Reinforced Masonry Walls.....	81
11.	Inspection of Geotechnical Conditions	83
11.1	Discussion	83
11.2	Qualifications of Geotechnical Condition Investigators	83
11.3	Geotechnical Condition Evaluation	83
12.	Inspection of Nonstructural Elements	89
12.1	Introduction	89
12.2	Inspection Lists for Nonstructural Elements.....	89
12.2.1	Parapets, Ornamentation, and Appendages—Inspection List.....	89
12.2.2	Canopies—Inspection List.....	90
12.2.3	Cladding—Inspection List.....	91
12.2.4	Ceilings and Light Fixtures—.....	92
12.2.5	Interior Walls, Partitions, and Glazing—Inspection List	93
12.2.6	Mechanical and Electrical Equipment—Inspection List	94
12.2.7	Elevators—Inspection List	96
12.2.8	Building Contents—Inspection List	100
12.2.9	Overhead Lookout Galleries, Conveyors, and Platforms—	100
12.2.10	Automated/Mechanized Equipment—Inspection List	100
12.2.11	Other Concerns—Inspection List	100
12.3	Operational Considerations for Important Facilities.....	102
13.	Engineering Evaluation Method.....	103
13.1	Discussion	103
13.2	Considerations for Returning Damaged Structures to Service	103
14.	Human Behavior Following Earthquakes	105
14.1	Human Behavior after Disaster.....	105
14.2	Dealing with Occupants and Owners of Damaged Property	105
14.3	Coping with Stress in the Field	106
15.	Field Safety for Engineers	107
15.1	Field Equipment for Inspectors.....	107
15.2	Personnel Safety in the Field	107
15.3	Recognition of Hazardous Materials.....	108
16.	References	111
	Appendix A: Project Participants.....	113
	Appendix B: Posting Placards.....	115
	Appendix C: Safety Assessment Forms	121
	Appendix D: Example 1—Rapid Evaluation	129
	Appendix E: Example 2—Detailed Evaluation.....	135

Appendix F: Wind Damage	141
F.1 Purpose and Scope.....	141
F.2 Content and Organization.....	141
F.3 Wind Forces and Effects on Buildings	142
F.3.1 Wind Pressures on Buildings	145
F.3.2 Missile Impact Forces	149
F.4 Resistance of Buildings to Wind Loads	153
F.5 Building Types and Damage Implications	156
F.5.1 Fully Engineered Buildings.....	157
F.5.2 Pre-engineered Buildings	158
F.5.3 Marginally Engineered Buildings	160
F.5.4 Nonengineered Buildings.....	163
F.5.5 Summary	164
F.6 Initial Damage Report (Wind Damage)	166
F.6.1 Inspection Procedure and Criteria.....	166
F.6.2 Safety of Damage Inspectors	166
F.7 Rapid Evaluation Method (Wind Damage).....	168
F.7.1 Qualifications of Damage Inspectors	168
F.7.2 Rapid Evaluation Procedure and Criteria.....	168
F.8 Detailed Evaluation Method (Wind Damage).....	169
F.8.1 Qualifications of Damage Inspectors	170
F.8.2 Detailed Evaluation Objectives and Approach	170
F.8.3 General Detailed Evaluation Criteria	174
F.8.4 When the Structural System is Not Viewable.....	176
F.8.5 Posting Criteria.....	177
F.8.6 Detailed Evaluation Procedure.....	177
Appendix G: Flood Damage	181
G.1 Purpose and Scope.....	181
G.2 Content and Organization.....	181
G.3 Flooding Cause and Effect	182
G.3.1 Flood Types.....	182
G.3.2 Flood Parameters.....	184
G.3.3 Flood Forces	184
G.3.4 Flood Zones: Risk and Regulation.....	186
G.3.5 Typical Flood Damage	193
G.4 Initial Damage Report (Flood Damage).....	206
G.4.1 Inspection Procedure and Criteria.....	206
G.4.2 Safety of Damage Inspectors	208
G.5 Rapid Evaluation Method (Flood Damage).....	208
G.5.1 Qualifications of Damage Inspectors	209
G.5.2 Rapid Evaluation Procedure and Criteria.....	209
G.6 Detailed Evaluation Method (Flood Damage).....	210
G.6.1 Qualifications of Damage Inspectors	215
G.6.2 Detailed Evaluation Objectives and Approach	215
G.6.3 General Detailed Evaluation Criteria	215
G.6.4 When the Structural System is Not Viewable.....	218
G.6.5 Posting Criteria.....	218
G.6.6 Detailed Evaluation Procedure.....	219