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 in the ATC-20 report (ATC, 1985), which was written specifically for volunteer structural engineers and local building officials.

This ATC-26-3 report provides interim procedures and guidelines for determining if earthquake-damaged buildings can be safely occupied. The technical content of the ATC-20 report, originally developed for ATC by R.P. Gallagher Associates, Inc., has been modified to meet the needs of the U.S. Postal Service and to allow maximum postearthquake participation by U.S. Postal Service engineers and Facility Managers. Also included are recommended posting procedures and placards designed specifically for the USPS.

Fluor Daniel, Inc., an architect/engineer/construction firm with experience in the seismic evaluation of buildings, served as a primary ATC-26-3 project subcontractor. The research and engineering work was performed by Richard M. Drake and Philip J. Richter.

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 Reaveley, and John Theiss. Joann Dennett of RDD Consultants, Inc. served as Publications Consultant. The affiliations of these individuals are provided in Appendix A, which also includes a list of ATC-20 project participants.

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Christopher Rojahn—ATC Executive Director
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