

# Concept of Operations for Municipal Damage Assessment



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# Development of Portland Damage Assessment Plan

**collaborators**

Written by Portland Emergency Management staff in consultation with other City bureaus and Multnomah County.



# Purpose of the Plan

## A framework

Collect and synthesize damage information to:

1. Inform operational response planning,
2. Protect the public from dangerous buildings,
3. Facilitate a disaster declaration,
4. Begin recovery.



# Plan Goals

- Establish an organizational structure for systematic damage assessment;
- Coordinate information sharing among key partners (county, hospitals, schools).
- Facilitate damage reporting for homeowners and businesses.



# Strategies

- Identify critical infrastructure, and
- Identify assessment tools and data platform.
  - Collector App showing ATC-20 form plus monetary damage estimate.
  - Uploads to WebEOC.



# Strategies

Collect three layers of information:

- *Rapid damage assessment*: general situational awareness, from any credible source.
- *Estimated monetary damages*: for FEMA declaration, completed by layperson.
- *Safety inspections (ATC-20, ATC-45)*: require qualified building inspector.



# “Normal” damage assessment landslide, flooding, fire

- First responders do rapid damage assessment.
- Safety inspections done in a few hours - days.
- Public self-reports lesser damage to homes and businesses via phone or website.
- Public agencies tabulate damage in few days-weeks.



# “Normal” damage assessment landslide, flooding, fire

- Focus on tabulating monetary losses for insurance claims and FEMA disaster declaration.
- Use paper and City permit database.
- Rely on email to share information.





# Catastrophic scenario

## CSZ earthquake

- Normal work disrupted; workforce reduced; travel difficult; first responders overwhelmed.
- Email, mobile phones, and City permit database likely not available for some time.
- Bureaus activate emergency response and business continuity plans as they are able.
- FEMA will likely make a “fly-over” declaration.



# Rapid Damage Assessment

**0-24 hours**

- Fire Stations check Fire Management Area and report info to Station 1.
- Water bureau deploys damage Assessment Teams and report to bureau incident command post.
- Transportation deploys bridge inspection teams and reports to bureau incident command post.



# Rapid Damage Assessment

**0-24 hours**

- Emergency Coordination Center staff deploy.
- Bureaus activate COOP and report facilities' status.
- ECC staff develop situation status report based on:
  - Reports from bureau incident command posts,
  - Media and social media reports,
  - Information reported to partner agencies (Multnomah County).



# Begin Safety Inspections

**24-48 hours**

- Building inspectors rally at ECC and Permit Center and deploy to assess buildings.
- Begin with critical structures.
- Use Collector App. Fall-back to paper forms.
- Inspectors focus in zones where they normally work.



# Safety inspections and monetary estimates

**24-48 hours**

- Continue to dispatch damage assessment teams, organized from City ECC.
- Direct qualified volunteers to support City DATs.
- Request emergency declaration if necessary.



# Inspections Continue

**2 days-2 weeks**

- Bureau of Develop Services will activate COOP and begin issuing emergency demo and repair permits.
- DATs from other parts of the US will arrive in Portland.
- FEMA will establish methods for public to report damage for public assistance.



# Recovery

**2 weeks - years**

- Aftershocks will require re-inspection of buildings for months.
- Many structures will be demolished or destroyed; many historic structures may be lost.



# For future development

## plan update

- Clarify / expand who may inspect buildings post-disaster.
- Develop operational guides for deploying DATs.
- Develop just-in-time training for volunteers.
- Learn from damage assessment efforts elsewhere.
- Mitigate vulnerable buildings.





# Thank you

questions?

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