

# POLICY

## SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Approved: Timothy Wegner  
Timothy Wegner (Apr 15, 2022 09:16 PDT)

### Purpose

The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) utilizes volunteers and mutual aid resources to provide professional engineers, architects, and certified building inspectors to assist local governments in safety evaluation of their built environment in the aftermath of a disaster. The program is managed by Cal OES, in cooperation with professional organizations. Cal OES issues registration ID cards to all SAP Evaluators that have successfully completed the program requirements.

The Building Services team may be requested to respond to an incident by either the County's Office of Emergency Services (OES), by Sheriff Dispatch, CalFire Dispatch (Grass Valley), or a local fire district. In any case the team responds to the community's needs for safety assessment services.

In addition, from time-to-time, OES identifies potential mitigating measures as solutions to recurring concerns/identified problems. In this event, Building Services may be required to implement new standards by vetting such before the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

What is the goal of SAP? The goal of SAP is to help local government perform accurate facility safety assessments as quickly as possible. This will allow people to use safe homes and businesses and ensure that people are prohibited from entering unsafe structures after a disaster. SAP Evaluators survey damaged facilities to determine if there are safety hazards to building occupants or to the general public. SAP Evaluators also provide recommended posting of placards that denote the condition of each structure evaluated.

This policy provides a general framework and is not all encompassing.

### Policy

**Disaster Event** (wildfire, flood, avalanche, earthquake, wind, heavy snow)

The Building Services Division operates under the direction of the Placer County Director of Emergency Services. Building Services staff perform identified roles within the Placer OES system. At times, team members perform functions in the OES command center, located in the FAB building on the PCGC campus in Auburn.

Inspectors are to use the State of California Safety Assessment Program training and State of California OES guidelines. The "T" drive houses information as well at the following site:

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/recovery/disaster-mitigation-technical-support/technical-assistance/safety-assessment-program>

# POLICY

## SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Under direction of OES, building assessment will be conducted in a manner that uses the existing supervisory structure. Inspectors are deployed as directed and will categorize buildings based upon levels of safety and risk to the public and occupants. Such assessment will be indicated on the property through inspection placards.

SAP Assessments. There are two types of assessments performed:

1. Rapid Evaluation: Typically, a team of two building inspectors or a building inspector and an engineer or architect.
  - ✓ initial assessment
  - ✓ minimizes labor required
  - ✓ may include construction inspection, evaluation of dangerous conditions, etc.
  - ✓ legibly post apparently safe, restricted use, or obviously unsafe buildings
2. Detailed Evaluation: Typically, a team includes a building inspector, a structural engineer, an architect, and other specialists as needed to address the specific situation.
  - ✓ completed after the Rapid Evaluations, when requested
  - ✓ comprehensive inspection of the entire building particularly its structural system and surrounding area
  - ✓ recommends a 'posting' classification to provide reasonable assurance that the structural system is sufficiently safe
  - ✓ is always done on potentially damaged civil infrastructure

In planning for disaster recovery, a local building department should take the following steps to assist with legal issues. Whether or not SAP Evaluators are requested, it is important for a local government to be legally prepared for any type of disaster.

Examples of ordinances that can assist the local government with its post-disaster activities include:

1. Reduction of disaster hazard by codes and by mitigation, such as seismic retrofit or elevation of structures above flood levels;
2. A system for posting placards identifying the condition of buildings, structures, and infrastructure;
3. Nuisance abatement, which permits the jurisdiction to demolish a structurally damaged building; and
4. Disaster repair and reconstruction. Building departments should also consult with legal counsel to determine what powers and responsibilities building inspectors, SAP Evaluators, and other local officials will require in order to enter, evaluate and post damaged structures.

In order to be eligible for federal and/or state disaster assistance funding, local government should also adopt repair/restoration standards in accordance with Title 44, Section 206.226, Code of Federal Regulations. These repair standards should provide "objective," rather than "subjective" triggers to determine the level of repair required. In general terms, all standards must: 1. apply to the type of repair or restoration required (standards may be different for new construction and repair); 2. be appropriate to the pre-disaster use of the facility; 3. be in writing and formally

## **POLICY**

### **SAFETY ASSESSMENT**

adopted prior to the date of a disaster or be a federal or state requirement applicable to the type of restoration; 4. apply uniformly to all similar types of facilities within the jurisdiction; 5. be in effect and enforceable when the disaster occurs.

#### **Small Incident Event**

Placer County Sheriff, CalFire, dispatch or the local fire district, may contact a building services representative at any time to request assistance. In an effort to create a simplified approach for dispatch, three building representatives shall be identified for initial contact (East Manager, West Manager, and CBO). Contact PCSO dispatch non-emergency line, or email, and provide the abovementioned contact information.

The building representatives shall have a list of inspectors to respond to the incident. On a rotation basis, the inspectors are contacted to determine if they can provide service. Once an inspector is identified, the inspector is routed to assist as requested. A typical call will look like this:

1. 911 dispatch contacts manager and shares issue (car into business, home fire, electrical service outage, gas leak, etc.).
2. Collect the on-site Battalion Chief, or Deputy Sheriff's contact information.
3. Call the on-site commander to determine their needs or ascertain from dispatch.
4. During business hours, skip to #6
5. After-hours—see “After-hour Call-Out” policy.
6. Deploy inspector; note time.
7. Once inspection is complete, they return a call to the manager advising service complete, safe, and headed back to office or next inspection; note time.
8. During normal business hours or as approved, inspector adds a notification to record the incident in Accela, “Land” portal, so Counter team is aware when applicant arrives.
9. If after-hour, inspector submits OT/CTE form, and any mileage reimbursement if personal vehicle utilization.
10. Done

#### **Placer OES Mitigation Plan**

Building Services is to work cooperatively with OES in the development and implementation of any mitigating measures that may be a result of any incident, disaster or small incidents.

# Safety Assessment 04.12.22 (Final)

Final Audit Report

2022-04-15

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Created:        | 2022-04-13                                   |
| By:             | Cindy Hirota (chirota@placer.ca.gov)         |
| Status:         | Signed                                       |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAA37F0iJKqEccJLMvpWhPN0sc09mIF9aKA |

## "Safety Assessment 04.12.22 (Final)" History

-  Document created by Cindy Hirota (chirota@placer.ca.gov)  
2022-04-13 - 7:10:35 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Timothy Wegner (twegner@placer.ca.gov) for signature  
2022-04-13 - 7:11:18 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Timothy Wegner (twegner@placer.ca.gov)  
2022-04-15 - 4:15:48 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Timothy Wegner (twegner@placer.ca.gov)  
Signature Date: 2022-04-15 - 4:16:21 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2022-04-15 - 4:16:21 PM GMT