

Pre-Disaster Activities for Structural Engineers and Structural Engineers Associations (SEAs)

Structural Engineers:

- Get trained and certified in disaster response. Visit the Disaster Response Alliance (DRA) website for recommended training: www.disasterresponse.org/get-training. NCSEA or local SEAs often offer training for the CalOES Safety Assessment Program, which is widely recognized as a necessary certification for those interested in participating as a second responder.
- If you are already trained and certified in disaster response, please check www.disasterresponse.org to make sure you are registered with the DRA and that your contact information and qualifications are up to date and correct.
- Get involved in your local Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) committee or similar disaster response or emergency response committee within your SEA. When a disaster happens, please do not self-deploy to the affected areas. Deployment of second responders must be executed through proper established channels to ensure a coordinated, effective response.
- Get involved in a local or national committee working on building codes or material design standards, where lessons learned get converted into practice and ultimately improve the safety of our structures and resilience of our communities.
- Help your company establish or update an emergency response plan and/or business continuity plan so that your company is ready to respond when a disaster occurs.
- Help your friends and family understand the need for disaster preparedness given the natural hazard or other risks relevant to your community so that they know what to expect and are better prepared.
- For those with additional passion and expertise, consider pursuing a role as a structural specialist for a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team and complete the additional training required. For more information, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/urban-search-rescue>

Pre-Disaster Activities for Structural Engineers and Structural Engineers Associations (SEAs) cont.

Structural Engineers Associations:

- Create a Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) committee at your SEA to support regional response to future disasters. Contact NCSEA SEER Committee (seer@ncsea.com) for support in forming your SEA's SEER committee and to understand the relationship between the NCSEA SEER committee and your SEA's SEER committee when a disaster occurs within the United States.
- Engage your SEA's technical committees to help them disseminate lessons learned from a given disaster, share best practices developed in response to a given disaster, and contribute to developing revisions to future codes and standards when warranted.
- Consider forming a policy committee, legislative affairs committee, or similar advocacy committee to help your SEA engage with and provide technical support to local or state jurisdictions or agencies to enact policies and programs that seek to address potential vulnerabilities and mitigate the risk of disasters that may affect communities in your region.
- To get help with your SEA's response to media inquiries about this or another disaster or for help with generating a media response plan for your SEA, contact NCSEA Executive Director Al Spada (aspada@ncsea.com). Also, please see the related resource with some talking points regarding how structural engineers respond to disasters and advance the profession.
- Generate a disaster response plan for your SEA. Contact 2022-23 NCSEA Board Vice President Ryan Kersting for guidance and to find out about NCSEA's Disaster Response Plan at rkersting@buehlerengineering.com.

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