



Hurricane Katrina Emergency Response - How You Can Help

We have received many contacts from our member organizations with active Structural Engineers Emergency Response Programs (SEERP) in place, noting that they want to send volunteers to help with the damage assessments. We have been in contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Corps of Engineers. Both agencies have thanked us for our offer of assistance, but noted that it is premature, particularly in Louisiana, to be sending damage inspectors at this time. At the moment, all available resources are being focused on rescuing, relocating and caring for victims, finding and properly interring the deceased, controlling disease, repairing the breached dikes and draining flooded areas, and restoring civil order. They will require assistance in evaluating the safety of affected structures, once they take care of these more pressing needs.

What you should not do

All of the emergency response agencies are unanimous in noting that they do not want volunteers flooding into the area at this time. This will only create additional people management problems that they neither need nor want. **Please notify your members that they should not mobilize to the affected area at this time.** Interested volunteers should wait until contacted by agencies specifically requesting assistance. NCSEA will attempt to coordinate such requests at a national level and notify the state organizations who have ability to marshal emergency responders, when it is appropriate to do so.

What you should do

In the interim time, here are things we suggest you do.

1. If you have an active SEERP in place and a phone tree of volunteer engineers, perform a preliminary activation of your volunteers. Find out who is available to mobilize to the

affected area, and over what time frames they would be available. Maintain a data base of this information

2. Provide the NCSEA Executive office with contact information for a coordinator in your organization. That way, when the agencies tell us they are ready for volunteers, we can let you know.
3. If you are in the affected region, and know that resources are needed, call the NCSEA office and let us know who we can contact at your state's Office of Emergency Services, to coordinate mobilization of volunteers.
4. It is not clear that there will be any funds available to support emergency responders. People who mobilize to help will have to pay their own way, in addition to bringing something to stay in, fuel, water and food. Your organization may want to establish a fund, using member donations to provide travel and subsistence support for those who do ultimately respond. If the money is not used to support emergency responders, there will be plenty of agencies who can use the money, including the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and similar organizations.
5. Notify your members how they can help. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a list of organizations that are seeking donations of food, clothing and money. However, beware that some people will attempt to obtain money fraudulently. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has posted a list of legitimate emergency care providers who need assistance at:

http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/resources_katrina.shtm



Hurricane Damage Assessment Guide

The Applied Technology Council of Redwood City, California, recently published a guide for assessment of structural damage resulting from wind and flood, known as the ATC-45 program. Available materials include safety assessment forms that can be used to perform rapid assessments of the safety of structures that have been damaged by a severe storm and also placards that can be used to post buildings and indicate whether or not they are judged safe for occupancy. Forms and placards are available for download, free, from the ATC website at <http://www.atccouncil.org/ATC45.shtml>. A field manual that provides instruction on use of the forms is also available from ATC for a modest charge. These materials were specifically developed to assess wind and flood damage, based on the similar materials that have previously been developed and used to assess damage after an earthquake and the 9/11/2001 attack.

New Advocacy Committee Chair

The NCSEA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of David K. Adams as chair of the Advocacy Committee. A graduate of the University of California at San Diego, in 1990, Dave is a practicing structural engineer with Lane Engineers, in Tulare, California. Dave is registered in both California and British Columbia. His practice includes design, plan check and failure investigation. He has been active on Building Seismic Safety Council Technical Subcommittees and in the development and grading of the California Structural Engineering exam. Dave has been an active member of the Advocacy Committee for several years and most recently has spearheaded the joint NCSEA/SEI program to induce students to consider structural engineering as a profession.

Dave replaces Stan Caldwell, who resigned in August of this year, after five years of service,

in order to take on new responsibilities with ASCE. Stan has recently been elected to the ASCE Board of Directors and to its Program Committee. In addition, he is one of the principal organizers of the Building Security Council, currently being developed by ASCE in partnership with other organizations.

Under Stan's leadership, the Advocacy Committee grew significantly in size and activity. The committee has an active student outreach program, to encourage them to consider structural engineering as a profession. In addition, the committee has undertaken programs to establish contacts with the media, to help provide information to the general public on the role of structural engineers and the importance of structural engineering to their welfare.

Reminder: NCSEA Annual Meeting to Include Strategic Planning Session. The NCSEA annual business meeting to be held at the Fairmont Kansas City, in Kansas City, Missouri on October 29 will feature a workshop session to help NCSEA develop a strategic plan.

NCSEA is undertaking this planning activity to assist the organization to be successful and address the needs of our members over the next 5 years. The workshop to be held at the annual business meeting is the first step in a longer process. The workshop will provide the member organizations an opportunity to provide NCSEA with feedback on the most important programs and services that the organization can and should provide. Then, in December, the NCSEA Board, together with past NCSEA Presidents, will meet in a professionally facilitated session, to convert the information and ideas obtained at the annual meeting into a cogent and useful strategic plan.

This is your opportunity to provide the NCSEA Board with direction on where/how you would like to see the organization evolve. Don't miss the opportunity.