

## WSSPC Awards in Excellence 1997

### **Award Category: Mitigation Efforts**

**Program Name:** Seismic Improvement of Unreinforced Masonry Dwellings Guide

**Administering Agency:** Utah Emergency Services EPICenter

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**How long has this program been operational?** 1996

### **What are the major purposes of this program? What problem(s) or issue(s) was it designed to address?**

The creation of Seismic Improvement of Unreinforced Masonry Dwellings Guide was to provide the general public, engineers, and general contractors with a guide to assist them in their seismic retrofitting activities. At the time of development and even today, there is very little information dealing particularly with unreinforced masonry homes and the means by which to seismically retrofit them.

### **Describe the specific activities and operations of the program.**

The Guide was developed by a local engineering firm. When completed, a news release was done. A substantial article about the Guide was written in the newspaper. The Guide was first made available to the WSSPC member states last year at the Montana Conference. Since then it has been distributed to local area engineering firms, county Emergency Management Directors, and Regional Program Managers. It is for sale at cost to the general public.

### **Does this program take a new and creative approach or method?**

The lack of good information on retrofitting unreinforced masonry homes is what was the driving force for this guide. The methods of retrofit may be new, the approach may not be new, but having this new product and placing it into the hands of people that can utilize it was the most important part of the project.

### **What were the program's start-up costs and source(s) of funding?** \$40,000

**Budget:** \$40,000    **Source:** 50% FEMA - 50% in-kind Reaveley Engineers

### **What are the program's annual operational costs and source(s) of funding?**

**Budget:** \$8,000    **Source:** Utah Emergency Services EPICenter Program Budget

**Number of full-time equivalent employees working with this program?** 1 FTE

**Did this program originate in your state?** Yes

**Are you aware of similar programs in other states?** Yes

**Has the program been fully implemented?** Yes

**Is there evidence that the program has been effective in achieving its stated purpose(s)?**

People call for the Guide, which means there is general awareness of the Guide with people who seriously want to retrofit their homes. Retrofitting is an expensive undertaking. These guides are not supposed to move as quickly as an emergency checklist. The EPICenter is pleased with the general public's interest, particularly in Utah, with this guide.

**How has the program changed since its inception? What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?**

Any damaging, recent earthquake will make the guide very popular.