

WSSPC Awards in Excellence 2000

Mitigation Efforts

Seattle Project Impact – School Retrofit

Seattle Emergency Management

Ines Pearce, Seattle Project Impact Coordinator

2320 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98121-1718

Tel: 206-615-0288 Fax: 206-684-5998

Over the past 30 years the Seattle School District has identified and removed the most pressing school earthquake hazards. The district has concentrated on large structural projects to either replace or seismically strengthen facilities. However, special attention must also be paid to seismically securing nonstructural items, such as chemicals in high school science labs, mechanical and plumbing systems, and natural gas equipment. It is believed that unsecured nonstructural elements could cause substantial injuries and death during an earthquake, and addressing these will minimize loss of life.

Seattle Public Schools partnered with the City of Seattle's Project Impact initiative to create the **School Retrofit** program. This program enables the district to further improve the safety of schools by focusing on three specific areas of nonstructural retrofit: ***Removal of Overhead Hazards, Nonstructural Retrofit, and Automatic Gas Shutoff Valves.***

The purpose of the **School Retrofit** program is to educate about our region's seismic hazards, increase school occupants' safety against earthquake related injuries, lessen property damage, and to speed the restoration of school programs following an earthquake.