



E-Newsletter Winter 2008 Edition December 17, 2008

Western States Seismic
Policy Council
801 K Street, Suite 1436
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-444-6816
Fax: 916- 444-8077
Email: wsspc@wsspc.org
Website: www.wsspc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

JOHN G. PARRISH
CHAIR

JOHN MADDEN
VICKI MCCONNELL
KEN MURPHY
HENRY RENTERIA
BOB SWENSON

PATRICIA L. SUTCH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AMY LEWIS
PROGRAM MANAGER

MEMBER STATES

ALASKA
AMERICAN SAMOA
ARIZONA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
GUAM
HAWAII
IDAHO
MONTANA
NEVADA
NEW MEXICO
NORTHERN MARIANAS
OREGON
UTAH
WASHINGTON
WYOMING
YUKON

WSSPC HEADLINE NEWS

2009 Joint WSSPC/EERI Annual Conference Registration Now Open!

Registration for the 2009 Joint WSSPC/ EERI Annual Conference themed "Earthquake Risk Reduction – Are Voluntary Actions the Key?" is now open. The conference is being held February 11-14, 2009 at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Planning committee has designed a unique program based on hard-earned insights about earthquake hazard mitigation. Sessions will address barriers, incentives and challenges involved in seismic rehabilitation; characterizing and communicating risk; and incorporating societal safety issues into public thinking and building standards. Optional field-trips touring the newly renovated state capitol building or the Wasatch fault have been scheduled for Saturday afternoon, after the conference program concludes.

The pre-registration deadline is **January 21, 2009** and the deadline to reserve your stay at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center at the conference rate is **January 10, 2009**. To view the program brochure and register online, visit www.wsspc.org or www.eeri.org. We'll see you in Salt Lake City!

WSSPC 2009 Awards in Excellence Winners Announced

WSSPC is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 WSSPC Awards in Excellence, decided by the WSSPC Board at the December 16, 2008 Board Meeting. Winners will be recognized and receive a plaque at the 2009 Joint WSSPC/EERI Annual Conference at the Friday Banquet. The winners are listed by category below. Congratulations to the 2009 award winners, and thank you to everyone who submitted an award nomination.

Overall Award in Excellence for Mitigation

Kodiak Island Borough School Seismic Hazard Mitigation Program, Kodiak Island Borough

Innovations

Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group, Humboldt State University – Earthquake Education Center

Outreach to General Public

Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergency (COPE), City of Santa Rosa
Emergency Preparedness Program

Outreach to Business/Government

Washington Decision Makers Field Conference: The Cost and Practice of Seismic Safety in Washington, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Earth Resources-Geologic Hazards Program

Research

Wasatch and Sevier Faults Paleoseismic Research, Utah Geological Survey

Oregon Governor Announces \$30M for Seismic Bonds

The Governor of Oregon, Theodore Kulongoski, has included \$30M General Obligation Bond to seismically retrofit critical facilities, public educational institutions and emergency facilities in his 2009-2011 recommended budget. The Bond also provides funding for seven Capital Construction projects, including a project to enhance and alter existing emergency preparedness facilities through the state. To read the full text, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/BAM/GRB0911intro.shtml>, see public safety section, page D-3.

WSSPC NEWS

WSSPC February Meetings and Events

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

- 12:00pm-2:00pm – Tsunami Hazard Mitigation
Committee Meeting
Chair: John G. Parrish, California
Geological Survey
Location: Hilton Salt Lake City
Center, Topaz Meeting Room
- 12:00pm-2:00pm – Basin and Range Province
Committee Meeting
Chair: William Lund, Utah
Geological Survey
Location: Hilton Salt Lake City
Center, Canyon A Meeting Room
- 2:00pm-3:00pm – WSSPC Board Meeting
Chair: John G. Parrish, California
Geological Survey
Location: Hilton Salt Lake City
Center, Topaz Meeting Room
- 2:00pm-3:00pm – Committee for Engineering,
Construction and Building Codes
Meeting
Chair: Ron Lynn, Clark County
Development Services, Bldg Div.
Location: Hilton Salt Lake City
Center, Canyon A Meeting Room
- 3:00pm-5:00pm – WSSPC Annual Business Meeting
Chair: John G. Parrish, California
Geological Survey
Meeting Room: Topaz

Friday, February 13, 2009

- 7:00pm-9:00pm – 2009 Awards in Excellence
Banquet
Meeting Room: Canyons B & C

California to Merge Office of Emergency Services and Office of Homeland Security

In late September, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a package of legislation that will strengthen the state's ability to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. Included in this package is Assembly Bill 38 (AB 38) by Assemblymember Pedro Nava, combining the Office of Emergency Services (OES) with the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) into a new cabinet-level agency, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). The bill gives Cal EMA the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery and homeland security activities in the state. For the full article, including information on the full package of emergency response legislation, visit <http://www.gov.ca.gov/press-release/10650>

The Great Southern California ShakeOut

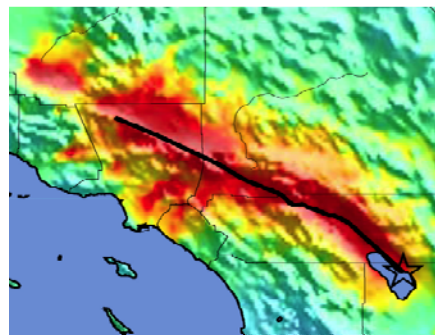
The Great Southern California ShakeOut, based on the Southern California Earthquake Scenario, began November 12, 2008 at 10:00am with the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history, prompting millions of Southern California residents to “Drop, Cover and Hold!” The Drill was organized to inspire Southern Californians to prepare for large magnitude earthquakes and prevent catastrophes. Scientists have been warning for years that Southern California’s “Big One” is long overdue, but that hadn’t done much to inspire Southern California residents to prepare. Scientists decided to step away from the doom-and-gloom scare tactics and take a more light-hearted approach; they threw a party, created video games and recruited popular broadcast media to spread the word: it can be cool to “drop, cover and hold.”

Attracting little attention at first, the ShakeOut was looking like it was going to be another tremor on the preparedness Richter Scale, but when the M5.9 earthquake struck Los Angeles on July 29, 2009, the number of registered participants skyrocketed and by the beginning of November nearly five million people had registered to participate.

To submit your ShakeOut pictures or share your story, or for more information on the ShakeOut, visit <http://www.shakeout.org/>

To View NASA’s contribution to the ShakeOut Scenario on YouTube, visit:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F3J_EtRFi0

Ground shaking during a magnitude 7.8 earthquake on the southern San Andreas fault; red indicates areas of strongest ground shaking.



Tsunami Response and Recovery Exercise

According to Washington State and Federal officials, the two-day tsunami response and recovery exercise held October 22-23, 2008 was a success. The exercise was based on a simulated tsunami event off Washington’s northwest coast. Jim Mullen, Director, Washington Emergency Management, called the exercise “one of the best collaborations I’ve been involved with in 17 years of emergency management work.” He went on to say it was a major achievement for FEMA to bring the exercise to

Washington, rather than have exercise participants travel to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute. He further commented that this change increased participation and allowed the exercise to present a more realistic emergency response and recovery scenario.

To read the full article, visit:

<http://washingtonresponder.com/go/site/1289>

Nevada Earthquake Safety Council Minutes Posted

The minutes of the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council (NESC) August 6, 2008 meeting have been posted to the NESC site. The minutes include updated information on the Wells, Nevada and Mogul-Somerset earthquakes and the Annual Report of Activities for Plan Year 2007. The minutes are available for download in PDF format at <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/nesc/Aug08.pdf>.

Nevada Earthquake Awareness

Nevada Earthquake Awareness Week is scheduled for February 22-29, 2009. Teachers are requested to have classroom drills.

Utah Seismic Safety Commission Web Address

The Utah Seismic Safety Commission has a new web address: <http://ussc.utah.gov>.

NATIONAL NEWS

NEHRP Strategic Plan Released

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program has released their Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2009-2013. To download a copy of the Plan, visit http://nehrp.gov/pdf/strategic_plan_2008.pdf.

Nancy Ward to Serve as FEMA Senior Career Transition Officer

David Paulson, FEMA Administrator has appointed Nancy Ward, FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator, to serve as FEMA Senior Career Transition Officer to help facilitate the transition for FEMA senior leadership to the new Administration in January.

NIST Releases Final WTC 7 Investigation Report

The final report on the September 11, 2001 collapse of World Trade Center building 7 (WTC 7) in New York City was released November 20 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The revisions to the draft WTC 7 report, released for public comment on Aug. 21, did not alter the investigation team's major findings and recommendations, which include identification of fire as the primary cause for the building's failure.

The extensive three-year investigation found that the fires on multiple floors in WTC 7, which were

uncontrolled but otherwise similar to fires experienced in other tall buildings, caused an extraordinary event. Heating of floor beams and girders caused a critical support column to fail, initiating a fire-induced progressive collapse that brought the building down.

With the release of the final WTC 7 report, NIST has completed its federal building and fire safety investigation of the WTC disaster that began in August 2002. More than 20 changes in the U.S. model building and fire codes have already been adopted based on the findings and recommendations from the investigation.

The complete text of the final WTC 7 report, a video describing the WTC 7 investigation findings, a listing of all comments received on the draft WTC 7 report, a chart tracking the progress toward implementing all of the NIST WTC recommendations, and other materials may be accessed at <http://wtc.nist.gov>.

NIST 9/11 Based Code Recommendations

The International Code Council (ICC) recently approved 23 major and far-reaching building and fire code changes based on recommendations from NIST. The recommendations were part of NIST's investigation of the collapses of New York City's World Trade Center (WTC) towers on Sept. 11, 2001. The changes, adopted at the ICC hearings held September 15-21, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minn., will be incorporated into the 2009 edition of the ICC's International Building Codes and International Fire Codes.

The new codes address areas such as increasing structural resistance to building collapse from fire and other incidents; requiring a third exit stairway for tall buildings; increasing the width of all stairways by 50 percent in new high-rises; strengthening criteria for the bonding, proper installation and inspection of sprayed fire-resistive materials (commonly known as "fireproofing"); improving the reliability of active fire protection systems (such as automatic sprinklers); requiring a new class of robust elevators for access by emergency responders in lieu of an additional stairway; making exit path markings more prevalent and more visible; and ensuring effective coverage throughout a building for emergency responder radio communications.

The full press release is available at http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/wtc_100108.html

For more information on the NIST investigation and subsequent findings, visit <http://wtc.nist.gov>.

Witt Dismisses FEMA Rumors, Calls for National Catastrophe Program

By Mary Gilbert, National Journal

James Lee Witt, who served as director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from 1993 to 2001, dismissed speculation that he has been asked to head up that agency again under President-elect Obama. "Those are just rumors," he said, adding that he is "not looking for any appointed position" but has advised the Obama transition team on these matters "from time to time."

Protecting America, which Witt co-chairs along with Adm. James M. Loy, former deputy secretary of Homeland Security, is calling on the new president and Congress to create a national catastrophe program to protect the six in 10 American families that live in areas prone to natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. At the December press conference, held to mark the end of the 2008 hurricane season, Witt and Loy stressed the importance of creating a national approach to disaster protection before the "big one" strikes.

For the full article, visit

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=41547&dcn=e_gvet.

Virtual Disaster Viewer

An international consortium, which includes the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), has supported the development of a first of its kind "social networking tool" for earthquake impact assessment – an online Virtual Disaster Viewer (VDV). Developed in conjunction with Microsoft Virtual Earth, VDV represents a combination of new technologies, including satellite imagery-based damage and situation assessments by international teams of expert engineers, along with geo-referenced ground photographs and videos collected by field teams. VDV represents a new way of remotely viewing a disaster area and generating preliminary estimates of earthquake damage, when access to the affected area is restricted. It is currently being tested by a small group of EERI members, as well as representatives from other organizations in the consortium.

For more information on VDV, visit the EERI website at www.eeri.org/site/content/view/468/2.

Andre Filiatrault Elected MCEER Director

Andre Filiatrault, Ph.D., Eng, was elected to a two-year term as director of the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER). He is a University of Buffalo professor of civil, structural and environmental engineering in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and was elected to the position by the newly-instituted MCEER Management Council, principally comprised of

university faculty colleagues that lead MCEER research programs. Filiatrault previously served as deputy director of MCEER. He succeeds Michel Bruneau who stepped down from the director position in August.

For the full write-up, visit

http://mceer.buffalo.edu/outreach/news/Filiatrault_News_Release_10-08.asp.

Arkansas to Purchase Earthquake Monitors

Governor Mike Beebe of Arkansas has released \$300,000 in General Improvement Funds to purchase six broadband seismic monitors. The monitors will be placed throughout the state by the Arkansas Geological Survey to improve measuring capabilities between the existing stations around the New Madrid Seismic Zone in Northeast Arkansas and those in Oklahoma.

For the full article, visit

http://governor.arkansas.gov/newsroom/index.php?ido:newsDetail=1&news_id=1354

State Emergency Operations Plan Study

A recent study entitled *Using Sense-Making and Co-orientation to Rank Strategic Public Communication in State Emergency Operations Plans*, graded and ranked the state emergency operations plans (EOP) of the U.S. states and the District of Columbia on their communication components. The 29 jurisdictions that have plans available make provisions for public communication -- including news releases and public broadcasts, but only 16 of them make explicit or implicit provisions for two-way public communication such as community forums and focus groups. Of the 29 plans obtained, only two -- Washington, D.C. [which is treated as a state-level entity for this purpose] and New Mexico -- received a perfect score for communication.

For the complete article, visit

www.contingencyplanning.com/articles/68861

International Codes Now Available Online

The 2006, 2003 and 2000 editions of the International Codes, standards and more than 300 related documents are now available on the Internet at www.eCodes.biz. The new Premium eCodes is cost-effective, integrates codes and standards into a single, online library form and allows users to print, search, compare documents and customize options to meet specific needs.

For the full press release, visit

www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2008/1022eCodes.html

BSSA Call for Papers

The Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America (BSSA) will publish a special issue on the May 12, 2008 M8 Wenchuan earthquake. This special issue will focus on results of investigations into all seismological, geodetic, geophysical, geological, and engineering aspects of the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. All authors working in this area are encouraged to submit research papers for consideration. For more information on the BSSA special issue and submission instructions, visit <http://www.seismosoc.org/news/newsitem.php?id=i200810317>

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

China's Student Death Toll Rises

The earthquake that occurred in May in the Sichuan province of China left nearly 90,000 people missing or dead. The Chinese government revealed at the end of November that over 19,000 school children are included in the number of those dead or missing, which is twice the original reported death toll for the students. Most of the children's deaths were a result of poorly constructed schools, which has led to parent's staging protests and demanding investigations. Intimidation and financial inducements have been used to silence many of the parents. Since the earthquake, more than 1,300 schools have been reconstructed or are currently being worked on.

For the full article, visit

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=2008-11-20_D94J3FNG1&show_article=1&cat=breaking

Sulawesi, Indonesia Earthquake

An M7.3 earthquake rocked Sulawesi, Indonesia November 16, 2008. The earthquake occurred as a result of thrust faulting on a plate-boundary that is marked by the North Sulawesi trench, separating the Celebes Sea basin and the Minahassa peninsula. At least six people were killed, hundreds were injured and 10,000 were displaced. More than 1,000 buildings were damaged and communications were disrupted in the Buol area and in Gorontalo.

For more information on the Sulawesi quake, visit

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsww/Quakes/us2008z1bn.php#details>.

Earthquakes Strike Pakistan

Two M6.4 earthquakes occurring 12-hours apart struck the Baluchistan Province of Pakistan on October 29, 2008 (local time). EERI reports that the first quake is responsible for collapsing thousands of mud-brick housing, massive landslides and killing more than 300 people. Preliminary reports have characterized the second quake as an aftershock.

For more information on the Pakistan earthquakes, visit

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsww/Quakes/us2008yscs.php#summary>

RESOURCES & PUBLICATIONS

Wasatch Fault Flyby

The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) has uploaded a new video about the Wasatch Fault to YouTube. The video is a ten-minute "flyover" of the Salt Lake City segment of the fault. In addition to showing where the fault is and its proximity to highways and towns, photos are included that show fault scarps and other geologic features. Potential hazards and where the fault travels in the valley are highlighted. For more information and to view the Wasatch Fault video, visit:

http://geology.utah.gov/utahgeo/hazards/eqfault/wfault_flyby.htm

Wasatch Front Geologic-Hazard Information

Areas with the potential for certain earthquake hazards, landslides, debris flows, and alluvial-fan flooding in the urban parts of Davis, Salt Lake, Tooele, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber Counties are now available in one digital database. *Geographic Information System Database Showing Geologic-Hazard Special-Study Areas, Wasatch Front, Utah* is a new publication in CD format available from the Utah Geological Survey (UGS).

Prior to development in areas prone to geologic hazards, city and county ordinances require special studies to identify hazards, assess their severity, and recommend how to mitigate their effects. Generalized geologic-hazard maps are required to determine where special studies are needed. These maps, for the urban areas mentioned, can be generated from this new database. The various maps were prepared over the past several decades by the UGS and Wasatch Front County Hazards Geologists.

For the complete text and ordering information, visit

<http://geology.utah.gov/whatsnew/news/archives/new0708.htm>.

California Geological Survey Special Publication 117

The California State Mining and Geology Board recently approved the Revised Special Publication 117, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Mitigating Seismic Hazards in California*. The revisions include: 1) new ground motion procedures that are consistent with current code, 2) new screening criteria for liquefaction, and 3) improved models for estimating

seismically-induced landslide displacements. In addition, many new references have been added in order to improve the “Standard of Practice.”

To view the full press release and download a copy of the Special Publication, visit http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/information/publications/release_statements/Documents/SP117_release.pdf

Seattle Urban Seismic Hazard Maps Released

The USGS has produced a new series of earthquake hazard maps for the City of Seattle. These “urban seismic hazard” maps provide a much higher-resolution view of the potential for strong earthquake shaking than previously available. This new view is particularly important for Seattle, which sits atop a sedimentary basin that strongly affects the patterns of earthquake ground shaking and therefore, of potential damage. The maps are based on 540 computer simulations of earthquakes in a three-dimensional model of the Earth's crust. They include the expected shaking from earthquakes on the Seattle and other shallow faults, great earthquakes on the Cascadia Subduction zone and deep ones like the 2001 Nisqually earthquake. To read the full article, visit <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/pacnw/hazmap/seattle/information-sheet.htm>.

To download the Seattle Urban Seismic Hazard Maps, visit: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/pacnw/hazmap/seattle/index.php>

USGS Liquefaction Maps for San Jose Area

EERI reports that USGS has recently released new liquefaction hazard maps for the San Jose area of Northern California. The maps show the probability of liquefaction for three scenario earthquakes, two of which have historically occurred: an M7.8 San Andreas fault earthquake, an M6.7 earthquake on the southern Hayward fault, and a hypothetical M6.9 earthquake on the Calaveras fault. All maps predict higher liquefaction probabilities along the major creeks in the valley.

The maps were released as USGS Open-File Report 2008-1270, Liquefaction Hazard Maps for Three Earthquake Scenarios for the Communities of San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale, Northern Santa Clara County, California. The maps can be downloaded either in PDF or GIS format from the USGS publications web site at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1270/>

San Andreas Fault M7.8 Scenario



Hospitals Safe From Disasters Website

The new global campaign website for making Hospitals Safe from Disasters was launched on October 8, 2008, International Day for Disaster Reduction. At the Safe Hospitals website you'll find publications, information, tools and guidelines on making hospitals safe from disaster; direct links to all the World Health Organization (WHO) regional webpages on the safe hospitals campaign; media, interviews and video clips; good practices and case studies; key information in English, French and Spanish; an event calendar synced with PreventionWeb, the disaster risk reduction community site; information about the Hospital Safety Index.

You can contribute to the site and the Campaign by: submitting new resources through the site; telling us about your initiatives and good practices; adding campaign-related events to the event calendar, which will be checked and published by the PreventionWeb.net team.

Visit the Hospitals Safe from Disasters website at <http://safehospitals.info/>

Report of Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop Released

Open-File Report O-08-10, *Oregon Public Utilities Commission—Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Leadership Forum and Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop, April 2, 2008* documents the Leadership Forum and Seismic Critical Energy Infrastructures Workshop, held in Salem, Oregon. The workshop brought together executives and senior engineers from critical energy and telecommunication infrastructure organizations with the goal of sharing evidence that earthquake preparedness is needed for the State's energy and telecommunication infrastructure.

The workshop also encouraged participants to look at the need for seismic vulnerability assessments of utility systems and encouraged the development and implementation of earthquake hazard mitigation plans.

For the full press release, including information on purchasing a copy of the report, visit www.oregongeology.org/sub/news&events/archives/press-release-2008-10-15.pdf

MAE Center Releases *Impact of Earthquakes on the Central USA*

The Mid-America Earthquake (MAE) Center at the University of Illinois announces the release of its report *Impact of Earthquakes on the Central USA*. The report is the outcome of one of the largest and most comprehensive earthquake consequence assessment projects funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The report contains earthquake impact assessments for the 8 central US (CUSEC) states, and lists damage and other consequences to the built environment as well as social and economic impacts. The earthquake scenarios used represent the New Madrid, the Wabash Valley and the East Tennessee seismic zones. The analysis employs new and more reliable hazard and inventory data that has not been used before.

To read the text and download your copy of the report, visit <http://mae.cce.uiuc.edu/news/reportusa.html>

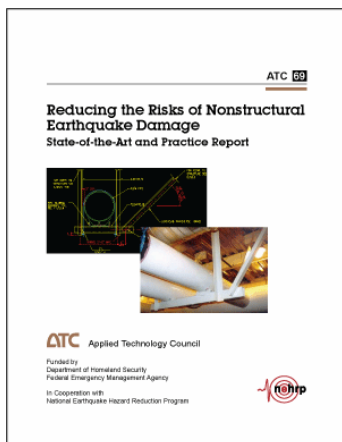
Earthquake Scenario Annual Report

EERI reports that the first New Madrid Earthquake Scenario (NMES) Project annual report is now available at <http://newmadrid.eeri.org>.

It lists the members of the project's executive committee, reviews efforts to identify the needs of various sectors, outlines coming events, and itemizes and describes suggested scenario products in the following sectors: business continuity, economic loss and social impact, finance and insurance, design, geoscience, government, response and recovery, and lifelines and utilities.

ATC-69 Report Now Available

The Applied Technology Council (ATC)-69 Report, *Reducing the Risks of Nonstructural Earthquake Damage, State-of-the-Art and Practice Report* is now available for download at the ATC website. The report serves as background information for the update of FEMA



74, currently being developed, and provides context for expanding future guidance on reducing the risk of nonstructural earthquake damage.

For the full press release and to download a copy of the ATC-69 Report, visit www.atccouncil.org/atc69.shtml.

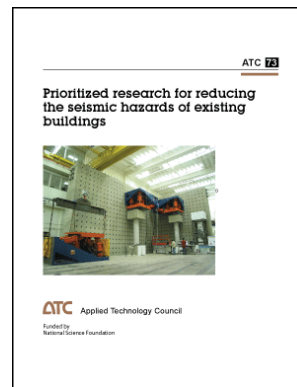
ATC-72 Workshop Proceedings Now Available

ATC-72, *Proceedings of Workshop on tall building seismic design and analysis issues*, is now available for download at the ATC website. The purpose of the workshop was to solicit the opinions and collective recommendations of leading practitioners, regulators and researchers actively involved in the design, permitting and construction of tall buildings. The outcome is a prioritized list of the most important tall building modeling and acceptance criteria issues needing resolution, based on the discussion of the multi-disciplinary stakeholders in attendance. This list will be used as the basis for future work in developing recommended guidelines for tall building design as part of the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center's (PEER) Tall Buildings Initiative.

To download ATC-72, visit www.atccouncil.org/pdfs/ATC-72FinalFormatted.pdf.

ATC-73 Report Now Available

The ATC has released the ATC-73 Report, *Prioritizing Research for Reducing the Seismic Hazards of Existing Buildings* for purchase or free download from their site. The report was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and has been organized to provide a Strategic Plan for implementing the overall NEES Prioritized Research Program for Reducing the Seismic Hazards of Existing Buildings.



For more information on ATC-73, visit www.atccouncil.org/pdfs/ATC-73News%20Release.pdf.

To download a copy of the report, visit www.atccouncil.org/pdfs/ATC-73webPDFpdf.pdf.

NESEC Updates New England Earthquake Video Reference

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) has recently updated and re-released the award winning video reference, *New England's Next Earthquake: The Writing on the Wall*. The video demonstrates just how devastating even a moderate earthquake can be in New England, recounts the

history of severe earthquakes in New England, examines the seismic hazards in the region, and includes inexpensive steps people can take to make their homes more earthquake resistant.

NESEC is offering this video in DVD format as a free gift to those making a \$10 donation to their organization. For more information on the video and to make your donation, visit www.nesec.org/news/video.cfm

New ICC Guide Highlights International Residential Code Requirements in Construction Sequence

A new ICC reference guide, *Building Code Basics: Residential, Based on the 2006 International Residential Code*, presents International Residential Code (IRC) basics and highlights the most important provisions in easily understood terms. The four-color publication explains the basics of the IRC with many illustrations, graphics and photos. Requirements for plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas, and electrical systems and equipment are included. This publication is the first in a series of guides about I-Code basics.

For more information, including how to purchase the ICC guide, visit www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2008/1016guide.html

Disaster Recovery Resources Website

www.DisasterRecoveryResources.net, sponsored by the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) and created by Claire B. Rubin, was designed to support communities with the vital resources needed to plan for and recover from disasters. The goal of the website is to become the centralized source of up-to-date information useful to disaster recovery at the community level. Governmental programs, private sector, non-profit sector and components of recovery make up the categories of community disaster recovery information available on the site. Contributions from researchers, practitioners, and consultants are encouraged. To contribute resources, contact Claire B. Rubin at cbrubin@gmail.com.

New NEMN Website Launched

The National Emergency Management Network (NEMN) is a national network developed by the Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) designed for local communities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to share resources in the event of a disaster. NEMN has launched a new website, making it simpler for local governments to take advantage of the extensive benefits available to members of the Network. For more information on NEMN and to view their site, visit www.nemn.net.

FUTURE CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

The 9th US National and 10th Canadian Conference on Earthquake Engineering: Reaching Beyond Borders

Dates: July 25-29, 2009

Location: Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Canada

This conference will provide an opportunity for both researchers and practitioners to share the latest knowledge and techniques for understanding and mitigating the effects of earthquakes. This is the first time that a conference of this scale is being organized jointly by the EERI and the Canadian Association for Earthquake Engineering. The conference will provide a unique environment to develop synergy between U.S. and Canadian colleagues, as well as other participants from around the world. This conference will bring together professionals from a broad range of disciplines, including architecture, structural engineering, seismology, geology, geophysics, geotechnical engineering, social response, regional planning, emergency response planning, and regulation.

For more information on this event, visit www.2010eqconf.org

Improving the Seismic Performance of Existing Buildings and Other Structures

Dates: December 9-11, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, California

The Conference Program for this 3-day event will feature plenary and breakout sessions on a broad range of pertinent topics, presentations by prominent professional and political leaders, technical exhibits, and social events, including a black-tie gala at the San Francisco Ferry Building celebrating new innovations in seismic strengthening over the last decade.

The program will provide a forum for the presentation and exchange of new information on the seismic evaluation and seismic rehabilitation of existing buildings, including case studies, new discoveries, innovative use of new technologies and materials, implementation issues, needed improvements to existing standards and methods, and socio-economic issues.

More information, including a call for papers and registration, may be found on the Conference website at: <http://www.atc-sei.org/>

WSSPC MEMBER NEWS

WSSPC Board Transitions

Rick Allis, Director and State Geologist with the Utah Geological Survey stepped down from the WSSPC Board and his position as Board Chair on November 30, 2008.

John Parrish, State Geologist with the California Geological Survey, began his new position as WSSPC Board Chair on December 1, 2008.

Vicki McConnell, State Geologist with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, began her two-year term on the WSSPC Board, on December 1, 2008.

Dan McGowan, former Administrator with Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, stepped down from his position on the WSSPC Board due to a position change that has taken him to Montana Homeland Security.

Mark Your Calendar!!

2008

December 17-18, 2008

Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR) Meeting at the University of California Berkeley in Berkeley, California

2009

February 11-14, 2009

Joint WSSPC/EERI Annual Conference, Hilton Salt Lake City Center in Salt Lake City, Utah
www.wsspc.org

February 11, 2009

WSSPC Committee, Board and Annual Business Meetings, Hilton Salt Lake City Center in Salt Lake City, Utah

February 13, 2009

WSSPC Awards in Excellence Banquet, Joint WSSPC/ EERI Annual Conference, Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah
www.wsspc.org

February 12-16, 2009

American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
<http://www.aas.org/meetings/>

TBD

Earthquake Program Managers Meeting
East Coast

March 6-11, 2009

NEMA Mid-Year Conference & 35th Anniversary Celebration, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
Alexandria, VA

April 8-10, 2009

Annual Meeting of the Seismological Society of America, Portola Hotel and Spa, Monterey, CA
www.seismosoc.org/meetings/index.php#2009

May 7-9, 2009

Geological Society of America Cordilleran, Kelowna, British Columbia
<http://people.ok.ubc.ca/rryoung/index.htm>

May 11-13, 2009

Geological Society of America Rocky Mountain Section Meeting, Orem, Utah
<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/rockymtn/09mtg/index.htm>

June 3-5, 2009

Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists Advancing New Madrid Region Time-History Determination: An Advanced-Practice Specialty Conference, Memphis, Tennessee
http://www.aegweb.org/files/public/MADRID_REGIONAdv-Spec_Conf_Spring-09-TH-flyer.pdf

June 21-24, 2009

19th World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM), Toronto, Canada
<http://www.wcdm.org/>

June 21-24, 2009

Association of American State Geologists 101st Annual Conference, The Yarrow Resort, Park City, Utah
<http://geology.utah.gov/aasgconference/index.htm>

June 28-July 1, 2009

TCLEE Conference: Lifeline Earthquake Engineering in a Multihazard Environment, Oakland, California
www.asce.org/tclee2009

September 21-26, 2009

Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists Annual Meeting, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, California
<http://www.aegweb.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>

October 18-21, 2009

Geological Society of America Annual Meeting: From Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with Dynamic Landscapes, Portland, Oregon
<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/>

December 9-11, 2009

ATC & SEI Conference on Improving the Seismic Performance of Existing Buildings and Other Structures, San Francisco, CA - WSSPC is a cooperating organization.
<http://www.atcouncil.org/>

December 14-18, 2009

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, San Francisco, California
<http://www.agu.org/meetings/index.shtml>

Request for Newsletter Submissions

If you have a newsworthy item for the next newsletter, please forward it to Amy Lewis, Program Manager, at the WSSPC office, at:
alewis@wsspc.org