

Fact Sheet



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Planning and Preparedness Branch,
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Safety Assessments for Schools After a Disaster

Introduction

What happens when a school site is struck by a disaster, and it's unclear if the site is safe for use? A safety assessment will likely need to occur.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Safety Assessment Program (SAP) coordinates, utilizing training resources, evaluations of damaged structures, identify usable buildings, and mark those unsafe or restricted use. When



the damaged infrastructure is a County Office of Education, school district facility, or school site, and the local jurisdiction doesn't have the capacity to perform the required number of assessments, the Cal OES SAP Coordinator can coordinate with and mission task state agencies with SAP trained resources that may include Department of General Services (DGS), Division of the State Architect (DSA), Caltrans, and/or others. If additional inspectors are needed, the SAP coordinator can facilitate mutual aid from civil, structural, geotechnical, and architect licensees from any state, along with International Code Council (ICC) certified building inspectors to conduct safety assessments.

Although the SAP is for all damaged infrastructure, this fact sheet outlines the specific process for school-related sites (county offices of education, school districts, and schools) to request a safety assessment, and best practices for mitigating future challenges.

How to Request a School Safety Assessment

When a local jurisdiction (e.g., city building department, or school district) determines a school-related site is damaged during their “windshield” or “walking assessment,” the totality of the damaged infrastructure needs to be, accurately identified to determine the need for SAP Evaluators. Following the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS):

1. The local jurisdiction requests assistance to their operational area (OA). The OA will complete the safety assessment. If the OA is unable or does not have a qualified SAP inspector, the OA will submit a request for assistance through their Cal OES Region Emergency Services Coordinator (ESC).
2. The Cal OES Region ESC will forward the request to the State Operations Center (SOC).
3. Once the SOC receives the request, the SOC will forward the request to the Cal OES SAP Coordinator.
4. The Cal OES SAP Coordinator will coordinate with state agency partners and others with trained evaluators to fulfill the request.
5. Once identified, the tasked SAP team will directly coordinate with the OA or local jurisdiction to fulfill the request and complete the needed safety assessments.



Local governments and OAs **must** follow SEMS for eligibility for response-related personnel cost reimbursement under state disaster assistance programs.

Request Process Visual

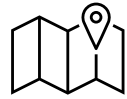
1. The local jurisdiction notifies the OA regarding school-related safety assessment need



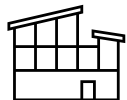
2. If able, the OA conducts the assessment. If unable,



3. The OA contacts the Cal OES Region ESC



4. The Cal OES Region ESC contacts the SOC



5. The SOC contacts the Cal OES SAP Coordinator



6. The SAP Coordinator contacts the DGS DSA for SAP evaluator(s)



Best Practices

Remember, all disasters are local. Any school-related safety assessments requests need routed through your local jurisdiction before moving to the Region or State.

If your local jurisdiction does not have an SAP Evaluator, there is most likely an SAP Evaluator(s) at the county level, or in a neighboring county.

County Offices of Education/School Districts and school sites should maintain a list of all buildings for each site. This information should be included in the SAP request sent to your local jurisdiction.

Contact Information

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Cal OES SAP Webpage

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Cal OES School Emergency
Planning & Safety Webpage