

Comments on behalf of FEMA

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Japan and NZ RAPID and Research Needs Workshop
February 9 and 10, 2012



FEMA activities related to Codes and Standards

- Development of P 695 methodology for improving Code R factors
- NEHRP Provisions Update Committee
 - Updates NEHRP Provisions which is used as source for ASCE 7
- Several Issue Teams working on various code improvements
 - One is clarifying code performance intent including considerations of economic losses and downtime
 - One is identifying lessons from recent earthquake that may indicate code changes: Haiti, Chile, Baja CA, Christchurch, Japan, Virginia
 - Immediate obvious lessons
 - Potential changes needing research
 - Most code changes require additional study before they can be implemented
 - Some changes will only become apparent after additional study or research is completed.



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Other FEMA activity

- Existing Buildings
 - Support for update of ASCE 31 and 41
 - Support for individual project to provide improved evaluation and retrofit standards for existing buildings.
E.g.
 - Weak story wood frame apartment buildings
 - Older concrete buildings
- Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Structures-Design Guidelines



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Unofficial FEMA Comments

- FEMA (I suppose) is anxious to encourage/assist with implementation of lessons learned from recent events, particularly Chile, Christchurch, and Japan.
- This workshop has indicated that these events can yield an extraordinary volume of data applicable to US design practice.
- FEMA encourages (I suppose) all additional study of data or research stemming from the results of these events.



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