

SECTION 1

Introduction

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute has, since its inception in 1949, conducted post-earthquake investigations for the purpose of improving the science and practice of earthquake engineering and earthquake hazard reduction. EERI's current Learning From Earthquakes (LFE) Project is supported by the National Science Foundation. Its primary purpose is to observe and document the effects of earthquakes on the built environment and the resulting social, economic, and policy impacts.

The LFE Project includes three major activities:

- Conducting post-earthquake field investigations.
- Developing guidelines for the conduct of field investigations that enable consistent data to be collected.
- Disseminating the lessons that are learned from these activities to the professions so that they become incorporated into standards and practices.

This Post-Earthquake Investigation Field Guide (hereafter called Field Guide) stresses advance planning. It outlines procedures that enable EERI to dispatch investigation teams quickly and effectively when the need arises. This advance planning is essential if EERI is to use its resources to best advantage, avoid duplicating the efforts of others, and ensure that all important aspects of destructive earthquakes are adequately studied.

This Post-Earthquake Investigation Field Guide describes procedures for deciding what earthquakes will be investigated; responsibilities of project participants; formation and dispatch of investigation teams; and dissemination of the information collected. It also offers guidelines for specific data collection in the field.

Subjects examined in this Post-Earthquake Investigation Field Guide include:

- Geosciences
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Engineered Buildings
- Industrial Facilities
- Lifelines
- Transportation Structures
- Architectural and Nonstructural Elements
- Emergency Management and Response
- Societal Impacts
- Urban Planning and Public Policy Implications
- Tsunami Impacts

The Learning From Earthquakes Project is overseen by the EERI Executive Director (Principal Investigator). The LFE Project is supported by the National Science Foundation and is funded by grant number CMS 9526408.