



PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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NATURAL DISASTER

So you have survived a natural disaster. What happens now? The California State Office of Emergency Services, in conjunction with Applied Technology Council (ATC), has developed a Rapid Evaluation Safety Assessment Program (ATC 20). The goal of this program is to rapidly review buildings, within the disaster area, for their safety in providing occupancy, and for those deemed not safe, to help you begin the rebuild process. These rapid evaluations are conducted by building professionals (i.e. engineers, architects, building inspectors). Once officials have determined it is safe for evaluators to enter the disaster area, teams of two trained professionals will start the rapid evaluations. Those rapid evaluations will result in a structure being posted one of three ways.

GREEN CARD:

This structure has been inspected (exterior only or exterior and interior) and no apparent structural hazard has been found

YELLOW CARD:

This structure has been inspected and found to be damaged. Entry, occupancy, and lawful use are restricted. The posting will note any restrictions placed on the structure.

RED CARD:

This structure has been inspected, found to be seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy. Do not enter except as specifically authorized in writing by jurisdiction. Entry may result in death or injury.

POSTING CHANGES

It is possible that subsequent events could create new damage or increase the initial damage, causing the need for an Inspected or Restricted Use posting to be changed to a more restricted level of use. If you have evidence that a new event has substantially increased damage to your building, you should contact the building inspection office to schedule a re-inspection. It is likely that the building inspection office will consider the re-inspection of posted buildings after a new event, even if re-inspections are not requested by the owner.

The Rapid Evaluation Team will post the building to their best judgment, but they may also request what is called a Detailed Evaluation. Detailed Evaluations are a second opinion to ensure that the restrictions on your property use are appropriate. The Detailed Evaluation will have more time and will have specialist members to conduct a more thorough investigation that may result in a posting different from that given by the Rapid Evaluation Team. In the meantime the posting by the Rapid Evaluation Team must be observed and adhered to.

For more detail information understanding safety assessment procedures and postings, please review the "Guidance for Owners and Occupants of Damaged Buildings" handout under the Caldor Fire link at:

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