Community Training

The purpose of BC Housing's Rapid Damage Assessment Program is to provide organizations and communities with quality training in safe and effective building assessment used for residential or emergency accommodation purposes following a natural disaster such as an earthquake, flood or windstorm.

BC Housing's courses for Rapid Damage Assessment training are offered at an extremely reasonable rate to encourage emergency preparedness and business continuity planning for public and private sector participants. If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact:

Security and Emergency Services
BC Housing
604-439-4706
or call toll-free
1-800-257-7756, local 4706
www.bchousing.org

British Columbia

March 2009

Rapid Damage Assessment PROGRAM

BC Housing

Post Damage Building Assessment

Damage caused by a significant earthquake, flood or windstorm can overwhelm the ability of building inspectors and professional engineers to determine quickly if buildings are safe for occupancy.

It might be days or even weeks before formal inspections can be undertaken. This delay can cause significant difficulties for people who need access to their homes, workplaces, or to public buildings such as schools.

BC Housing's Rapid Damage Assessment Program trains community members and emergency social services personnel in safe, effective building damage assessment following natural disasters.

The courses teach the basic skills to identify unsafe conditions in wood frame, masonry and concrete construction and how to assess damage to determine if buildings can be occupied.

BC Housing's rapid inspection skills are taught using the Applied Technology Council (ATC 20 & 45) guidelines from California.

BC Housing's Rapid Damage Assessment Program

The focus of the program is not to train participants to certify a structure as safe, but rather to identify any factors that would make the buildings UNSAFE for continued use.

BC Housing provides three separate course options for Rapid Damage Assessment training:

1 Post-Earthquake Rapid Damage Assessment: Neighbourhood Response

This is a neighbourhood level course designed for emergency social services and first responder personnel and teaches basic skills to identify unsafe conditions in wood frame, concrete and masonry construction.

2 Rapid Damage Assessment for Professionals

This course is designed for people with a strong technical and/or construction background and appeals to those who are actively involved in property or facilities management, building inspection, fire prevention and engineering roles.

3 Train-the-Trainer: Post-Earthquake Safety Program

This one-day course is available to municipalities and non-profit organizations that want to offer the course on a regular basis to their personnel and/or volunteers. It provides information and materials to teach experienced trainers to present the rapid damage neigbourhood response course.