

GUIDE for COMMUNITIES: RDA PLACARD ASSESSMENT and REMOVAL

Context

- The focus of the Rapid Damage Assessment is on the immediate assessment of the structure for life safety concerns.
- A Rapid Damage Assessment is intended for situational awareness, not for legislative or code compliance or insurance or financial reimbursement purposes.
- Rapid Damage Assessment placards include a statement, *'The assessment does not include inspection of concealed/ hidden areas, equipment operation, presence of insects, rot and hazardous materials such as; asbestos, radon gas, lead paint, urea formaldehyde, toxic chemicals, mould, and/or contamination'*
- Rapid Damage Assessment placards include a statement, *'Do Not Remove, Alter, or Cover this Placard until authorised by Governing Authority or Chief and Council'*.
- Within the Province of British Columbia, the Governing Authority can be a municipal government, Regional District, and Chief and Council for a First Nation Community, referred to in this document as the *Local Authority* (may also be known as the Authority Having Jurisdiction).

Considerations for Removing a Placard

- A posted placard can only be changed by an authorized representative of a local authority or as designated by the local authority
- The process for the removal of a placard and determining the final condition of the structure is the responsibility of the local authority
- Ideally, local authorities should have the legislative, bylaw, and regulatory frameworks in place to facilitate the transition from placard to building inspection processes
- The local authority's program should also include general criteria to guide decisions on when to remove a placard. This may include the repair, strengthening, or removal of the condition that led to a Restricted Use or Unsafe placard. For example, if the damage is structural then the local authority may require the building owner to apply for a building permit. If the damage is to a utility such as the electrical system, then a licensed contractor can do the repairs required as per the assessment and/or any supplemental inspection.
- The program should take into consideration the unique nature of the post-disaster environment and should account for the need for rapid and efficient assessments, detailed inspection, repair and approval. This need not be at the expense of public safety but may require additional resources to ensure adequate support of the public through their repair and restoration process.

References:

[Post-Disaster Building Assessment Guidelines for Communities](#), BC Housing, 2021

[Post-disaster Building Safety Evaluation Guidance](#), FEMA P-2055, 2019

www.bchousing.org/about/post-disaster-building-assessments