STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE to the rapid building assessment process

Rapid building assessments are a brief evaluation of individual buildings and their immediate surrounds for damage, usability and hazards exposure. The goal is to assess immediate risk to public safety. When carrying out these assessments, actual or potential land instability and geotechnical hazards also need to be considered.

Before a Rapid Building Assessor (RBA) is deployed to an area to assess damaged buildings an initial pre-assessment equipment check should take place. This is to ensure the RBA has all of the following: placards (all colours and multiple copies of each); info sheets for building owners; forms; if recording assessments digitally a fully-charged device; permanent marker; PPE gear; communication (phone, phone numbers, EOC contact etc).



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NOTE OTHER HAZARDS

The RBA will also look around the area of the building to identify any hazards which could impact on the safety of the building (this could be cliff faces, trees, unstable ground, exposed underground infrastructure, flood waters, silt/mud etc).



RECORD DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT

The RBA will carefully record the details of the building assessment on the correct form, this may be on a paper-based form or digitally via applications like Survey123. RBAs typically work in teams and will consult with one another to ensure a fair placard is assigned.



COMPLETE REQUIRED WORK, THEN REQUEST REASSESSMENT

The Territorial Authority requires evidence that the building meets the building code, and any repairs which are required have been completed by a Licensed Building Practitioner. Once an owner has the required evidence, they will contact the Territorial Authority to reassess the placard status.