

## Post-emergency building assessment

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After an event that causes widespread damage, many buildings may be dangerous from potential collapse, falling debris, damaged services, insanitary conditions and other hazards.

If your home, workplace or property is damaged by a major event it may need assessment by a qualified professional. Building owners are primarily responsible for ensuring buildings remain structurally sound following a major event, and assisting local authorities.

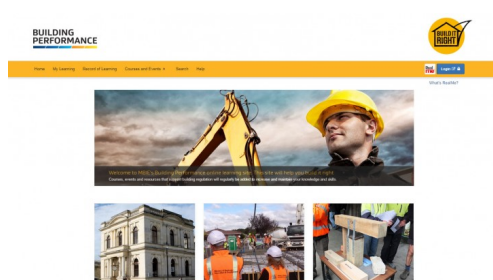
During a state of emergency or transition period, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 enables authorised civil defence and emergency management officials to carry out assessments, or require building owners to carry out an assessment of a building they own, to ensure buildings are safe to enter, safe to occupy and do not risk the safety of others.

An authorised civil defence emergency management official means:

- during a state of emergency – depending on the situation, a CDEM Group, Controller or constable, or any person authorised acting under that person's authority
- during a transition period – a Recovery Manager or any person authorised acting under the authority of a Recovery Manager (which may be a building control manager).

A major event could be an earthquake, flood, landslide, rock-fall, volcanic eruption, storm, surge, tsunami, explosion or some other event.

### FIELD GUIDE: RAPID POST DISASTER BUILDING USABILITY ASSESSMENT - EARTHQUAKES



### Online learning: Rapid building assessment

Check out the rapid building assessment courses on our online learning site.

Go to the site  
<https://learning.building.govt.nz/course/index.php?categoryid=13>

### Resources and related information

[Building assessments, including field guides and forms \(https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/post-emergency-building-assessment/field-guides-and-tools-for-building-assessment/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/post-emergency-building-assessment/field-guides-and-tools-for-building-assessment/) has resources for authorised civil defence emergency management officials and engineers.

[Building owner and manager guidance post-emergency \(https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/post-emergency-building-assessment/building-manager-guidance-post-emergency/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/post-emergency-building-assessment/building-manager-guidance-post-emergency/) explains the assessment process to building owners, managers and employers.

Everyone needs to be alert to hazards in their own building, from neighbouring buildings, from the surrounding environment and further risks such as aftershocks. Do not enter obviously unsafe buildings.

The [Civil Defence & Emergency Management \(http://www.civildefence.govt.nz\)](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz) website and [Earthquake Commission \(http://www.eqc.govt.nz\)](http://www.eqc.govt.nz)

website have information on what to do after an earthquake.

Go to the [Get Ready Get Thru \(http://www.getthru.govt.nz/\)](http://www.getthru.govt.nz/) website to find out how to prepare for a major emergency.

MBIE's [Canterbury rebuild \(https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/canterbury-rebuild/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/canterbury-rebuild/) information provides guidance for homeowners, building owners and building professionals. This information supports Canterbury's long-term building recovery from the earthquake sequence that began in 2010. Much of the information will be relevant to the Kaikoura 2016 earthquakes.

MBIE's [Rebuild with confidence \(https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/homeowner-rights-and-obligations/rebuild-with-confidence/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/getting-started/your-rights-and-obligations/homeowner-rights-and-obligations/rebuild-with-confidence/) has information for homeowners affected by the Hurunui/Kaikōura earthquake to help them plan and manage the rebuild or repair of their home.

The [WorkSafe \(https://worksafe.govt.nz\)](https://worksafe.govt.nz) website has information for businesses and workers on staying safe in the workplace.

Other resources:

- [emergency and continuity planning \(https://www.business.govt.nz/risks-and-operations/planning-for-the-unexpected-bcp/emergency-planning-for-businesses/\)](https://www.business.govt.nz/risks-and-operations/planning-for-the-unexpected-bcp/emergency-planning-for-businesses/) on the Business website
- [repairs after a natural disaster \(https://tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/repairs-and-damages/repairs-after-a-natural-disaster/\)](https://tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/repairs-and-damages/repairs-after-a-natural-disaster/) on the Tenancy website
- [leasing a commercial unit \(https://tenancy.govt.nz/uta/renting-leasing-and-buying/leasing-a-commercial-unit/\)](https://tenancy.govt.nz/uta/renting-leasing-and-buying/leasing-a-commercial-unit/) on the Tenancy website.



New Zealand Government

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- with compliance with the Building Act, it is published under section 175 of the Building Act
- with a Weathertight Services claim, it is published under section 12 of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.