

Chapter III Personnel Qualifications

Chapter III Personnel Qualifications Rapid Response Building Evaluator Certification Requirements

Purpose and Scope

These rules are intended to promote effective and uniform response by qualified personnel to evaluate damaged buildings after a natural or man-made disaster. This is to be accomplished by: setting qualifications, providing uniform training, maintaining records, requiring periodic added training, publishing an annual list of certified evaluators and providing identification showing that the evaluator has been so certified.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to the certification requirements for Rapid Response Building Evaluators.

- (1) Agency: the State of Colorado Division of Emergency Management (DEM)
- (2) **Declared Disaster**: Occurrence or <u>imminent</u> threat of widespread or severe damage from any cause, resulting in loss of property or life, as defined in CRS 24-32-2109 (see Appendix 4)
- (3) Rapid Response Building Evaluator: A person certified to do preliminary evaluation of buildings for safety after a disaster, herein called an "evaluator".

Qualifications of Evaluators

To qualify as a certified Evaluator a person shall be:

- A. Employed by a political entity within the State of Colorado and either:
 - 1. An engineer registered in the State of Colorado
 - 2. An architect registered in the State of Colorado
 - 3. A person such as a Building Official, inspector or plans examiner, who has been certified by the International Code Council (ICC)
 - 4. A person who, due to education or experience, is deemed by the Agency to qualify.
- B. An engineer or architect registered in the State of Colorado and participating in the Agency Volunteer Evaluator Program

An Evaluator shall evaluate buildings only in his or her area of competence. Evaluators shall declare their area(s) of competence (consistent with their background of education, practice, and/or experience) at the time of application. Such area(s) will be noted on the Evaluator's certification. An Evaluator shall also have satisfactorily completed the prescribed training and any required periodic additional training.

Training of Evaluators

The Agency, in conjunction with the Colorado Chapter of ICC, shall make classes available annually in rapid response building evaluation. These classes (California Safety Assessment Program CASAP, etc) shall include but not be limited to:

- 1. Familiarization with the laws, regulations, and procedures which apply during a disaster from the national and state levels.
- 2. An assessment of potential disasters which could affect buildings in Colorado.
- 3. Steps which need to be taken by each community to prepare for a disaster.
- 4. Procedure to perform building evaluations
- 5. Personal equipment and material which is needed to perform the evaluation.
- 6. Three stages of disaster (pre, during, post)

Maintain List of Responders

After completion of the training program, the building official for each participating jurisdiction shall maintain relevant information about the person who is qualified to respond to a disaster.

Identification

The Agency, in conjunction with the Colorado Chapter of ICC, shall provide identification cards to persons so certified as Evaluators. This identification shall be deemed suitable for presentation at the time of a disaster as evidence of pre-qualifications to serve as an Evaluator.

Affirmation

Evaluators may be subject to periodic required training in order to maintain their certification.