

Mitigation Assessment Teams

Building Stronger and Safer

FEMA's Mitigation Assessment Teams conduct engineering analyses after major natural disasters to assess damage to government facilities, homes, businesses and other structures. They also determine the causes of structural failures and successes. These teams analyze data to prepare recommendations for construction codes and standards, building design and best practices. They collaborate with state, tribal, territorial, local governments and the private sector.

Assessing Damages with an Eye to the Future

Mitigation Assessment Teams include technical experts from FEMA and various government jurisdictions, including local community representatives. Members also include the private sector such as specialists in civil and coastal engineering, hydraulics, architecture, construction and building code development and enforcement. The composition of each team depends on the type of damage incurred. The teams assess damage to many types of structures, including hospitals, police and fire stations, schools, government offices and homes.

Their goal is to learn why some buildings withstood a hazard event while other building sustained damage. Key questions include: How did buildings perform? Did wind damage exceed building codes? Did flood damage go beyond the flood zone? Were building codes enforced? Were construction materials sufficient to withstand wind and water damage? Were local, state and federal building standards and ordinances sufficient?

Consensus Recommendations for Building Stronger and Safer

The team consults with partnering government agencies and private organizations throughout the process to ensure consensus on each phase of the investigation, including methodology, data collection and analysis. This helps to ensure the Mitigation Assessment Team's final recommendations represent the most current data and technical expertise available.

Upon conclusion of the field investigation, specialists collaborate to analyze the field data, as well as other damage reports and studies conducted by government agencies or private firms. The team then prepares conclusions and develops recommendations about appropriate construction methods. Once they have a consensus, FEMA issues a series of Recovery Advisories to provide initial guidance on building issues and best practices that can be used in the reconstruction process.



FEMA

FEMA also publishes a comprehensive report. It that includes detailed technical recommendations for improving building construction and design, building code policy and enforcement and mitigation activities that can limit or eliminate damage.

Information for the Public

Dozens of FEMA publications based on observations and recommendations made by Mitigation Assessment Teams are available. FEMA P-787, the [“Catalog of FEMA Building Science Branch Publications and Training Courses,”](#) lists available FEMA publications, training courses and workshops for natural hazards. The document organizes publications, training courses, and workshops by hazard and intended audience. The publications, training courses and workshops are for a range from audience members; those who have little or no knowledge of design and construction techniques to building and design professional who are seeking best practices to improve building performance.