

CONCLUSION
"Building Survey Group"

Although the safety of persons occupying any building is largely determined by the building's structural quality, there is much the occupants can do better to insure their safety in respect to earthquakes. The purpose of the building survey group was to develop a procedure by which the safety of non-structural entities in campus buildings could be determined. We hope to promote similar types of surveys on other campuses faced with the problem of earthquake safety. Once hazards are identified they can be assessed for their degree of safety to people. Priorities can then be established as to how hazards can be mitigated with respect to time and cost.

Many of the buildings we surveyed lacked adequate emergency facilities for lighting, fire, first aid, and rescue operations. Combined with the lack of contingency plans, such as the assignement of persons responsible to shut off gas mains, check potentially hazardous areas, and assist people to safety, many lives may be lost in a situation of panic and confusion. A joint effort coordinating the Environmental Health and Safety Department or equivalent department with individual representatives of each building can considerably enhance the quality of earthquake safety. Although funds may be limiting in regards to mitigating earthquake hazards, we found that many hazards could be corrected at low costs. The fact that people can be aware of potential hazards and safety procedures is an indispensable asset to safety. For initially it is the responsibility of the people occupying a building to insure their own safety and that of others until trained emergency personnel can arrive.

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