



## Building Seismic Safety Council



The Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) provides a national forum to advance earthquake-resistant design and construction. BSSC also develops earthquake risk mitigation and regulatory provisions for use in the nation's building codes and standards. Since the Institute established this pioneer council in 1979, BSSC has served the building community and the public by ensuring that lessons learned from building performance in earthquakes and new research are reflected in state-of-the-art seismic requirements.

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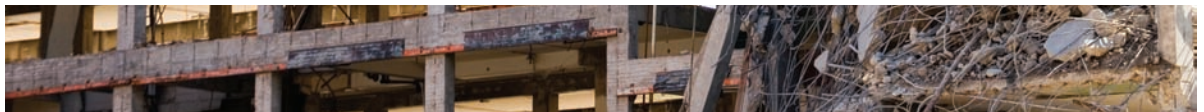
BSSC works via committees to accomplish various projects. BSSC has 66 voting organizational members and 19 affiliate members. More than 150 volunteer experts, including engineers, architects, academics, researchers, code officials, manufacturers and suppliers, participate in committee activities.

BSSC and its committees have played a key role in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) since they began work on the first edition of the *NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions*, which came out in 1985. Since that time, BSSC has been responsible for updating the *Provisions* for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every three to five years. BSSC takes the research done by the NEHRP agencies—FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST)—and applies it so the real world benefits from the results.

BSSC is developing the *2014 Provisions* and continues its successful FEMA-funded effort to encourage inclusion of the *Provisions* concepts in model building codes and national standards.

The BSSC Code Resource Support Committee (CRSC) works with the International Code Council (ICC) and the authors of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)/Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) standard presenting minimum design loads for buildings (*ASCE 7*) to ensure that the 2012 editions of the model building codes reflect the *Provisions* requirements either directly or by reference to *ASCE 7*. BSSC/CRSC representatives also assisted a number of local jurisdictions in efforts to add seismic requirements to their local codes.

In addition to developing the *NEHRP Recommended Seismic Provisions*, BSSC also creates training manuals and courses to help building professionals better understand application of the *Provisions* concepts. For example, during 2008, a BSSC guide on earthquake-resistant design and construction for homebuilders and potential homebuyers became a FEMA bestseller. BSSC rewrote the commentary that accompanies the *NEHRP Recommended Provisions* to better support the referenced standards so that the 2009 version provides designers with a clear and detailed explanation of how to meet the seismic requirements of the *International Building Code* and *ASCE 7*. ■



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