

WDS Business Opportunity

WDS - A Potential Chapter Business Opportunity



Disasters

In 2025 there were 23 weather related disasters with damages exceeding \$115 billion

[NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information]



Disasters

BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS

January - December 2025



Approximate location of the 23 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters (CPI-adjusted) that impacted the U.S. from January-December of 2025. Source: Climate Central. Data as of December 31, 2025.

Disasters

In 2025, over 87 million people in the U.S. were impacted by climate-related disasters

[Climate Central]



Post-Disaster Responsibilities

“Building departments are critical to post-disaster recovery, as they manage structural safety evaluations, damage assessments, and permitting for repairs [and] directly dictates the pace of reconstruction, community resilience, and economic recovery.”

[FEMA]

Post-Disaster Responsibilities

- Initial and Preliminary Damage Assessments
- Post-disaster Building Safety Evaluations
- Substantial Damage Estimates and Determinations
- Increased Permit Intake, Plans Review and Construction Inspections
- Increased Licensing Enforcement

Public Information Regarding:

- Damage Assessments
- Building Safety Evaluations
- Building Restoration
- Construction Permitting

When Disaster Strikes

The When Disaster Strikes (WDS) program was created to increase awareness and provide training related to the code official's post-disaster roles

When Disaster Strikes

Program

- Training Courses
- Resources
- Certifications



When Disaster Strikes

Training Courses

- Disaster Planning for the Building Department
- Initial & Preliminary Damage Assessments
- Mutual Aid and DRRA 1206
- When Disaster Strikes – Evaluator
- Substantial Damage Estimates and Determinations
- When Disaster Strikes – Coordinator
- When Disaster Strikes – Refresher

WDS-Evaluator

The ratio between the number of damaged structures and outside resources (personnel) required to respond and recover from a disaster is 1:1

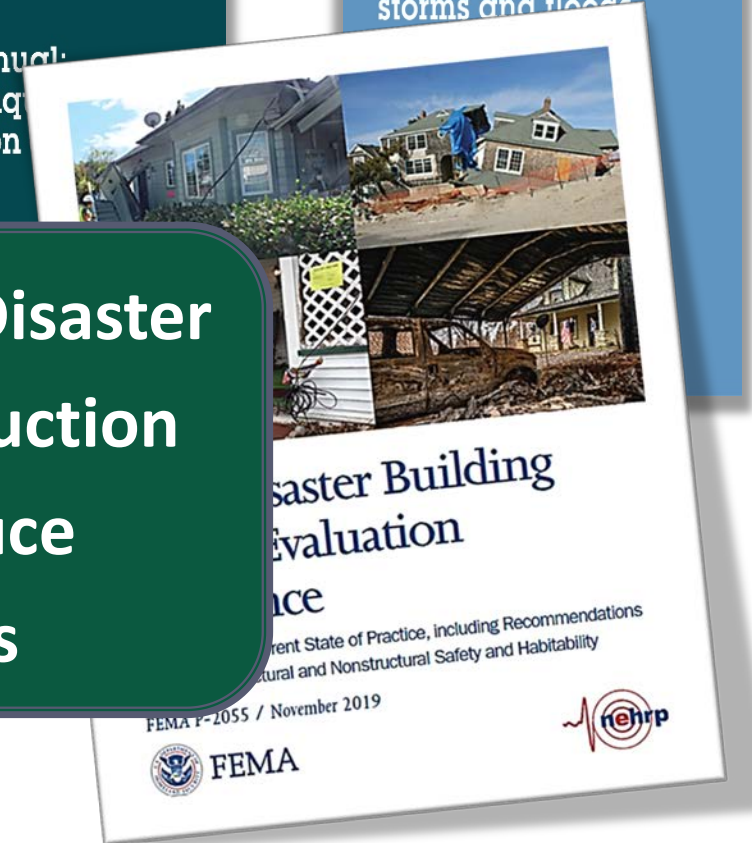
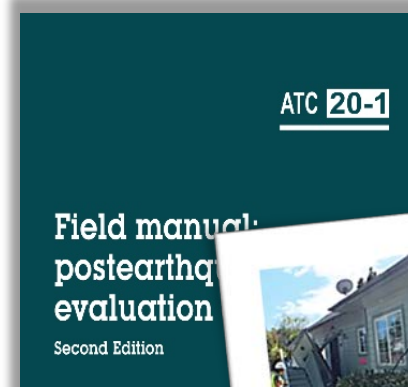
[Journal of Safety Science and Resilience]



WDS-Evaluator

WDS – Evaluator (6-Hr)

Goals: Introduce the roles of the Post-Disaster Building Safety Evaluator, provide instruction on performing evaluations, and introduce training and credentialing requirements



WDS-Evaluator

Training Courses

- Disaster Planning for the Building Department
- Initial & Preliminary Damage Assessments
- Mutual Aid and DRRA 1206
- **When Disaster Strikes – Evaluator**
- Substantial Damage Estimates and Determination
- When Disaster Strikes – Coordinator
- When Disaster Strikes – Refresher

In 2025 ICC began licensing the WDS-Evaluator course to its chapters.

Chapter Agreements

WDS Chapter Training Agreement

- WDS-Evaluator (Only)
- One-time \$500 fee (Not including materials)
- Ability to deliver in-person WDS-Evaluator training throughout their region or territory (At any time and for any cost)

Chapter Agreements

WDS Chapter Training Agreement

- Up to two individuals trained at a WDS Train the Trainer event (Two TTT per year)
- Receive continuing education credits and certificate of attendance from ICC (Once rosters are submitted)
- Attendees are eligible to signup, pay for, and take the CLA exam

Discussion





International Code Council, Inc.
Training Department

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Building Professional Careers!