

# Building Assessment Process for Disasters 1998 NOVA Award Nomination 06

## Building Performance Assessment Team Process for Disasters

The Building Performance Assessment Team (BPAT) Process was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help mitigate the effects of disasters on lives and property. Immediately after a disaster, FEMA sends a BPAT to the affected area to inspect residential buildings, commercial buildings, and other structures, both damaged and undamaged, to determine the reasons for successful and unsuccessful performance. With the knowledge gained from these field assessments, Recommendations are made to provide reconstruction guidance concerning issues such as construction methods and materials, building design, and code development and enforcement. FEMA publishes the findings and recommendations of BPATs in reports that are made available to the general public within months after a disaster, thereby allowing these recommendations to have a positive impact on post disaster reconstruction.

The most significant characteristics of the BPAT process are its timeliness, real world setting, contribution to future research, and technology transfer. Information is communicated to the technical community through reconstruction workshops and training sessions for building officials, tradespeople, and building owners; through fact sheets, manuals, handbooks, and other publications; and through technical papers presented at conferences and symposia.

Contact: Clifford Oliver  
Organization: Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Address: Mitigation Directorate  
500 C Street, SW., Room 404  
City: Washington  
State/Province: DC  
Postal Code: 20472  
Country: USA  
Phone No: 202-646-4631  
FAX: 202-646-2577  
URL:  
Email: clifford@fema.gov