

Building Assessment Safety Checklist

General

- Be aware and cautious.
- Always work in teams of at least 2 individuals.
- Always wear a hard hat and safety shoes.

Initial Assessment of Building That Is Not Posted

- Do not enter obviously unsafe buildings.
- Do not enter buildings or access appendages of buildings located on potentially unstable slopes.
- Do not enter buildings where falling hazards exist that could block exits from the building.
- If the building is leaning or out-of-plumb, do not enter unless it is absolutely necessary to determine the appropriate posting. When inside or outside try to stay on the side of the building away from the direction it is leaning.
- Before entering any building make sure exit doors are fully operable and you can leave quickly.
- Make sure that exits are clear and there are no falling hazards that could obstruct the pathway.
- Be aware of hanging or exposed electrical wires.

Subsequent Assessments

- If an unsafe building must be entered which has not been stabilized, take the following steps:
 - Visually assess the damage from the exterior and evaluate the potential for collapse.
 - One member of the team is to remain outside to monitor the building while other team members are inside.
 - To the extent possible, verify stability of every room or part of the structure before entering.
- Do not enter a building where a hazardous materials spill or release has occurred.
- Do not enter buildings, or access any appendage of a building, located on a hillside known to be moving or where slide potential exists.