

WHAT TO DO WHEN DISASTER STRIKES



Buildings may become severely damaged during a natural disaster. When this happens, local building departments, along with state and regional Emergency Operations Centers, evaluate structures to determine whether they are habitable or need to be evacuated until repairs are made.

Trained volunteers from the Structural Engineers Association of Georgia (SEAOG) Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) committee are available to quickly evaluate homes or commercial structures, notify owners of their building's status, and report results to the local building authority.

STEP 1:

Request Help from the Disaster Response Alliance

The Disaster Response Alliance connects local, state, and federal entities with skilled volunteers who can assist with response and recovery activities, including post-disaster safety assessments, building damage assessments, inspections, and other code-related functions. Local authorities will determine how many volunteers are needed.

- Visit www.disasterresponse.org and click "Request Help" or scan the QR code.



- Fill out the required information and click "Submit."

STEP 2:

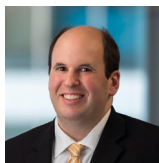
Work with SEER Volunteers

The Disaster Response Alliance will contact and deploy structural engineers to the area. Volunteers will conduct inspections on structures designated by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and report data back to the AHJ each evening. Typical deployment occurs a few weeks after the natural disaster and lasts for a week or two.

About SEER

SEAOG's SEER committee seeks to improve the level of knowledge of Georgia professionals interested in emergency response, and serves as a resource to those needing professional engineering assistance following natural disasters. The SEER committee establishes and maintains liaisons with appropriate state and national agencies and stands ready to assist the public in their time of need. All SEER responders are trained to meet CalOES Safety Assessment Program requirements, or equivalent.

Questions?



Kaniel Tilow serves as SEER Chair and is a Senior Consulting Engineer with Simpson Gumpertz & Heger in Atlanta, GA. He is passionate about the role of structural engineers in emergency response situations and believes their specific skills and knowledge are essential during post-disaster assessments and recovery efforts. He can be reached at SEER@seaog.org

