

Rapid Damage Assessment Information for Building Owners/Occupants

- The property/building was inspected for life safety purposes to identify whether any unsafe conditions exist that would prevent or restrict occupancy.
- The property/building was not inspected or assessed for legislative or code compliance, or for insurance or financial reimbursement purposes.
- The assessment included a brief visual inspection of non-concealed areas to identify the presence conditions that would suggest a building is unsafe.
- The assessment did not include an inspection or test for concealed/hidden damaged areas, equipment operation, the presence of insects, rot, or other hazardous materials.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Notices (Placards) on buildings

FAQ: Why has a placard been placed on my building?

As part of the response to the emergency, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen placed placards (notices) on buildings in and around the risk area. The placards indicate that a basic safety assessment had been carried out and as a result, structures were classified as red, yellow or green.

It is the responsibility of the building owner(s) to obtain a more detailed report of their building, as the Rapid Damage Assessment process is basic, and there may be hidden damage or subsequent events causing damage which could affect the property / building. Because of this, we recommend you engage the services of a licensed/certified contractor or professional engineer to assist you to review the safety of your premises.

FAQ: What do the coloured placards mean?

RED - You should not enter a building or portion thereof identified on the red placard because it may be unsafe. Some form of work is likely necessary for you to address to repair the unsafe condition.

YELLOW - Buildings are considered either suitable for restricted access until issues are resolved, or use may be possible in those parts of the building that have not been damaged. Subsequent events may cause increased damage or danger and change the assessment. Some form of work is necessary to repair the unsafe condition.

GREEN - The building has been assessed and while no apparent structural or other safety hazards are found, a more comprehensive inspection may reveal safety hazards.

FAQ: When can I remove the placard from my building?

Do not remove a red or yellow placard until you have completed the work identified on the placard so that the building is no longer unsafe. The green placard may be taken down by the building owner at their discretion.

FAQ: Who can remove the placard from my building?

Green placards may be removed by the building owner. Red or Yellow placards are only supposed to be removed, altered, or covered by the building owner once they are satisfied the safety concerns have been remedied. We recommend you engage the services of a licensed/certified contractor to assist you to review the safety of your premises.

FAQ: Do I have to tell the Local Government that I have had a structural assessment report or remedied the work?

The Rapid Damage Assessment information will be on record. Providing a copy of the assessment and any information on work completed as a result will ensure the most up-to date information is available on the property file. For example, a report or a contractor's invoice might show that suitable work was carried out after a placard was posted on your building to address any safety concerns at the time.

FAQ: Whose responsibility is it to make sure my building is safe to reoccupy?

Every building owner has a legal responsibility to make sure that their building is a safe place for any occupier or visitor. There could be serious legal issues for the owner if anyone is hurt because a building has not been made safe.

For additional information:

Please contact the **Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen** at (250)490-4225.