



DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

City & County of San Francisco
1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414

ENGINEERS: WHY BORP?

What is BORP? The Building Occupancy Resumption Program is an award-winning program developed by DBI in cooperation with SEAONC, AIA, and BOMA. BORP allows building owners to precertify private post-earthquake inspection of their buildings by qualified licensed engineers like you, upon DBI acceptance of a written inspection program.

For which clients should you recommend BORP? Clients who could benefit are owners of San Francisco buildings for which they rely on uninterrupted occupancy to provide rental income or business continuity.

Why not set up a post-quake inspection program for your clients without BORP? Only engineers preapproved for BORP-listed buildings are authorized to post buildings with official City placards before mutual aid arrives, usually 3-5 days after an earthquake. Your clients' buildings may not receive official inspection for a week or more after an event. Buildings could be incorrectly posted by City or volunteer inspectors, causing business disruption until the situation can be remedied.

What does BORP do for you? It gives you a way to assure your clients of rapid post-earthquake response regardless of City staff or OES volunteer priorities. It may also encourage owners to perform upgrade work for which you could provide design services, based on conditions noted during evaluation.

How can you promote BORP with your clients? Let your clients know that you want to be there to help them get back into their buildings as soon as possible after a disaster.

If the owners have tenants, make them aware that they can offer this service as a feature of their leases. Remind them that there are a limited number of local engineers and that owners not in the BORP program may have to wait weeks after a disaster for an engineer to become available.

How do I get my clients' buildings on the BORP list? Perform an evaluation of the building, select qualified emergency inspectors, develop a building-specific emergency inspection program, complete the BORP forms and submit the package to DBI.

What does the submittal to DBI include? Completed forms, resumes, building photo and description, access and evacuation information, and written inspection plan.

Who approves the submittal? Documents are reviewed by DBI staff and other members of the SEAONC Disaster Emergency Services BORP subcommittee.

What happens when the submittal is approved? The building is placed on the BORP list, the owner is sent verification, and the designated inspectors are sent City authorization, forms, and placards.

How do I keep my clients' buildings on the BORP list? Each year, before the anniversary of their approval into the program, make sure that you or your clients complete and submit a one-page form listing any changes in their buildings or inspectors. Supply information regarding any changes in your inspection personnel.

How do I get more information or forms? Contact the Technical Services Division at 415-558-6205.