

SAVE Coalition 2015 in Review

January 2016

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Message from SAVE Board Chairman Ben Ross

As we look back on 2015, it was a very busy year for the SAVE Coalition. This year we had seven training classes, including a non-technical class for On-Site Leaders. We end the year with more than 1,100 active members. SAVE members helped plan and execute a large, full-scale earthquake exercise at the Jefferson Barracks National Guard facility in



St. Louis. A smaller part of the exercise took place in Columbia.

Missouri ShakeOut 2015 Deployment Training/Exercise – More than 200 people from over 10 states came to Missouri to participate in the exercise. This was a great opportunity to develop relationships with private sector volunteers and representatives from local, state, and federal agencies. We learned a lot about running large exercises and validated our training for a real-world event. The training would not have been possible without funding from the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC). There may be another large scale, multi-state exercise in 2017.

2016 and beyond. Looking forward to the coming year, one of my biggest goals as Chair is to recruit more SAVE members from the western side of the state in general, and Kansas City in particular. The Kansas City area has a very large number of engineers, architects, and building officials but they represent a small percentage of SAVE members. As the western side of the state will be less affected by a major New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake, Missouri will need a lot of help from these professionals.

On behalf of the SAVE Coalition Board, I hope you have a prosperous New Year.

Benjamin A. Ross

SAVE’s 2015 Regional Earthquake Response Exercise Its Largest Ever

Many buildings in eastern and southern Missouri could sustain major damage if a large earthquake strikes the state. To prepare, SAVE members from across the region exercised their response to a massive earthquake Oct. 16-17 at Jefferson Barracks in south St. Louis County.

“A major earthquake is the worst-case scenario for structural damage, so it’s important that our volunteers are ready to handle it,” said Ben Ross, SAVE Coalition board chairman. “More than 200 people turned out for this exercise – it’s the largest we’ve ever conducted. We learned a lot and I’m convinced we’re much better prepared for a major disaster such as an earthquake.”

In addition to Missouri SAVE volunteers, the exercise drew participants from across the New Madrid Seismic Zone, as well as experts from around the country. Assessment teams from Indiana and Arkansas deployed to St. Louis for the event, as did U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assessment experts from Alaska, California, New York and South Carolina. The Missouri National Guard hosted the event and provided logistics support.

The exercise utilized old, unreinforced masonry buildings because of their vulnerability to collapse in an earthquake. SAVE inspectors conducted rapid assessments of the buildings and assigned them colors – green meaning that the building is safe to enter, yellow meaning the building is safe to enter briefly but not to occupy, and red meaning the building is severely damaged and cannot be entered. In a real emergency, placards with these colors would be posted on each building to let residents know the safety status of their structures.

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SAVE members throughout Missouri were among more than 200 volunteers participating in the earthquake response exercise at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis Oct. 16-17.

SAVE's 2015 Regional Earthquake Response Exercise Its Largest Ever (continued from page 1)

NEW TECHNOLOGY TESTED

The exercise was also an opportunity to test new technology. A GIS-based smartphone app, referred to now as the Safety Assessment App, was used for the first time during the exercise. The app allows inspectors to enter assessment data for each structure directly into their phones, assign the rating color and attach photos and notes regarding the assessment. These results are then submitted directly to the operations center, where results for an entire area can be displayed immediately for updates and decision-making by elected officials.



Results entered into the smartphone app were reported live to the operations center, using this color-coded display.

good tool for future disasters, and responders across the nation will have access to it for free.”

The exercise also tested the use of satellite-based GPS units as well as old-fashioned paper forms to report results if needed.

“What most impressed me is the teamwork,” said SEMA Director Ron Walker, who was on hand for the exercise. “We had folks from many states working together to organize this drill, inspect the buildings and report the findings, and they did a great job. In a real event, we’ll rely heavily on each other, so now we know who we can contact to get expertise and assistance on the ground quickly.”

The Safety Assessment App was created by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) for a trial run at the exercise, in hopes of refining it and making it available nationwide for emergency building assessments.

“This was a great opportunity for us to test the new Safety Assessment App in a real-world simulation,” said CUSEC Program Manager Brian Blake, who helped develop the app. “SAVE volunteers got some hands-on practice, and we got to see the real-time reporting capability as results came in. I’m pleased with the results and we’ve now got a better idea of what works and what we’ve got to improve. I think this will be a

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SAVE members used the new smartphone app, as well as paper forms and GPS units, to record inspection results during the exercise.

SAVE Coalition Sponsoring Organizations

- American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri
- American Institute of Architects/Missouri
- American Society of Civil Engineers/St. Louis
- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/New Madrid
- Missouri Association of Code Enforcement
- Missouri Society of Professional Engineers
- Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri
- Society of American Military Engineers/St. Louis
- Missouri Seismic Safety Commission

SAVE Coalition Coordinators - Dennis Kidwell, Columbia (Statewide), Benjamin Ross, Columbia (Statewide 1st Alt.), Andy Bonderer, Columbia (Statewide 2nd Alt.), Ronald O’Kane, Raymore (Northwest), John Woodson, Chesterfield (Northeast), Darrall Hirtz, Sikeston & Joe Leahy, Poplar Bluff (Southeast)

SAVE Coalition Trainers - Ted Pruess, St. Louis (Coordinator); Benjamin Ross, Columbia; Michael Griffin, Chesterfield; Dennis Cox, Poplar Bluff.

SAVE Coalition Board of Directors

Benjamin Ross, Columbia - Chairman	ASCE-St. Louis
Michael Griffin, Chesterfield - Vice Chair	EERI-New Madrid
Ashlee Peno, St. Louis	ACEC/MO
Michael Alberswerth, St. Louis	ACEC/MO
Kurt Krueger, Sunset Hills	AIA/MO
Bud Gruchalla, St. Louis	AIA/MO
Marc Bacchetti, Maryville, IL	ASCE-St. Louis
Gregory Hempen, St. Louis	EERI-New Madrid
Lara Berry, Maryland Heights	MACE
Scott Waggoner, Eureka	MACE
Dennis Kidwell, Columbia	MSPE
Stephen McCaskie, St. Louis	SAME-St. Louis
Jordan Holmes, St. Louis	SAME-St. Louis
Steve Stack, Rolla	SEAKM
David Weber, Columbia	SEAKM

A Few Reminders...

- * SAVE membership lasts three years, then must be renewed. Check your SAVE volunteer card to see when your certification expires.
- * If your expiration date is coming up, you can recertify for three more years either through an online recertification test or another class. Information on both options is available at the [SAVE Coalition web site](#).
- * Are you registered at [showmeresponse.org](#)? If not, please create an account (see details on this page). If so, please check your information to ensure it's still current.
- * If you receive an e-mail from Show-Me Response, look for response options at the bottom, such as "received." Choosing the appropriate response option helps us ensure that messages are being received by members.

2016 Training Class Calendar (as of Jan. 1, 2016)

One-day SAVE Coalition training classes are now scheduled for 2016. These classes provide the information you need to become a new SAVE member or to renew your membership.

- Friday, February 19, Columbia
- Tuesday, April 19, Branson (on-site leaders class)
- Friday, May 13, St. Louis
- Friday, June 17, Kansas City
- Friday, July 15, Hannibal
- Friday, August 26, Springfield
- Friday, September 23, St. Louis
- Friday, October 21, Cape Girardeau

Please register for these free classes at the [SAVE Coalition web site](#).

SAVE Members Urged to Take Incident Command System Courses

Following a large-scale disaster in Missouri, SAVE volunteers who are familiar with the Incident Command System (ICS) used by disaster-response personnel will be able to operate more effectively on the scene. Below are the basic National Incident Management System compliant courses strongly recommended for SAVE Coalition certified volunteers:

- [ICS 100, Introduction to Incident Command System](#)
- [ICS 200, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents](#)
- [IS-700, National Incident Management System \(NIMS\), An Introduction](#)
- [IS-800, National Response Framework, An Introduction](#)

SAVE Gives Back to the State

During 2015, the State of Missouri benefitted from the SAVE Coalition financially as well. Many coalition members donated their volunteer hours to the State Emergency Management Agency in order to count toward "soft match" dollars it can use for its Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) funds. In turn, SEMA uses these resources to fund

SAVE Coalition and other emergency management programs.

SAVE Coalition members who participated in planning meetings or training classes during the year were eligible to donate those hours to the state simply by signing a consent form.

Final approval of documentation is pending but it appears the SAVE Coalition will

donate more than \$60,000 in soft-match hours to the state. Please look for your opportunity to donate volunteer hours if you participate in a training class in 2016.

Thanks to those SAVE Coalition volunteers who participated in the donated hours project during 2015!

Thank you, Ed Gray

Ed Gray, who helped form the SAVE Coalition more than 20 years ago, stepped down as a Special Advisor to the Board of Directors in 2015. Ed was SEMA's Earthquake Program Manager in the early 1990s when St. Louis County officials first proposed the idea of a volunteer building assessment group for Missouri. He embraced the idea of the SAVE Coalition and worked tirelessly to help get the program established and then to support it as it grew to one of the model volunteer programs in the country. After retiring from SEMA in 2009, Ed returned in recent years to assist SAVE as a Special Advisor.

Thank you, Ed, for your extraordinary commitment and service to the coalition.

Show-Me Response – Important New Information!

The SAVE Coalition is accelerating the move of its volunteer database to the Show-Me Response web-based system, which is integrated with the state's registry of volunteer healthcare professionals.

Show-Me Response is a very effective tool for managing volunteers, allowing immediate e-mail notifications to targeted groups in an emergency. And since it's web-based, any volunteer can manage their own account

and keep their contact information updated.

Beginning in 2016, Show-Me Response registration will be required for all new members and all re-certifications. If you haven't already created an account, you'll be asked to sign up during a SAVE Coalition training class or during recertification testing. **You will not receive a SAVE Coalition membership card without Show-Me Response registration.**

To register, you must be a certified SAVE volunteer and choose the SAVE Coalition as an organization affiliation when registering in Show-Me Response. All information you provide is completely secure and private.

If you're a SAVE member, please register now at [showmeresponse.org](#).

SAVE Coalition
c/o Jeff Briggs
State Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Missouri's SAVE Coalition

The Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition is a group of 1,100 volunteer engineers, architects, building inspectors and other trained professionals that assists the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency with building damage inspections. After a disaster, SAVE volunteers are trained to move quickly to determine which buildings are safe to use and which should be evacuated.



SAVE Coalition volunteers are called to assist when a disaster such as a tornado or earthquake causes so much structural damage that local officials need help determining the safety of buildings. SAVE volunteers are trained in rapid visual evaluations to help get people back in their homes as soon as

possible. An inspection of the building's exterior results in posting of a green card meaning that the building is structurally safe to enter, a yellow card meaning the building is structurally safe to enter briefly but not to occupy, or a red card meaning the building is severely damaged and cannot be entered.

The SAVE Coalition was formed by state law in 1991 to establish a building inspection program for all disaster events, both natural and manmade. There are no fees for SAVE inspections.



Meet Your New SAVE Coordinator

Jeff Briggs is SEMA's new earthquake program manager, succeeding Steve Besemer. Briggs brings 25 years of experience in state government communications, planning and training. Briggs will head SEMA's earthquake preparedness and outreach activities, as well as coordinate operations of the SAVE Coalition and the



Missouri Seismic Safety Commission. He's available at 573-526-9232 or jeff.briggs@sema.dps.mo.gov.



Click the SAVE Coalition tab in the earthquake section at www.sema.dps.mo.gov for SAVE Coalition background information, the latest training class schedule, and other news.