

Join the Missouri SAVE Coalition

Use your skills in engineering, construction, or architecture to help your neighbors in a crisis!



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

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 inspectors are trained in rapid visual evaluations to get people back in their homes as soon as possible.

If you're an architect, professional engineer, building inspector or skilled construction industry worker with at least five years of verifiable general building design, construction or inspection experience, you're eligible to join the SAVE Coalition. All that's required is completion of a training course to become a certified team member, with recertification every three years.

Training is provided at no charge, and may count toward your continuing education requirements. This is a great opportunity to advance your career while helping others!

Participating Organizations

- American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri
- American Institute of Architects/Missouri
- American Society of Civil Engineers/St. Louis section
- Missouri Society of Professional Engineers
- Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri
- Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/New Madrid chapter
- Society of American Military Engineers/St. Louis post

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Missouri State Emergency Management Agency
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The one-day course, developed by a panel of structural engineers and building officials, provides training and procedures for rapid building evaluations in the aftermath of a disaster. Missourians are at risk for tornadoes and earthquakes, so the training focuses on quick inspections that determine whether homes and other structures can be used after these disasters. SAVE inspections result in posting of a green card meaning that the building is safe to enter, a yellow card meaning the building is safe to enter briefly but not to occupy, or a red card meaning the building is severely damaged and cannot be entered.

You'll join a network of more than 1,000 professionals trained as SAVE volunteers in Missouri, ready to respond to communities in need across the state. When local governments contact SEMA for assistance after a disaster, SAVE volunteer coordinators send available inspectors to the affected area to help them conduct building assessments.



SAVE Coalition volunteers played a key role in recovery from the 2011 Joplin tornado. In the days after the devastating twister hit the city, **69 SAVE inspectors donated more than 1,100 hours inspecting 6,347 buildings,** quickly determining whether they could be used for housing, emergency shelters or supply storage.

“The SAVE Coalition’s quick response absolutely saved the City of Joplin. We were overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of evaluating thousands of damaged structures, and we had no idea how much information we would have to quickly provide. The City of Joplin, its citizens and I are forever grateful to the members of the SAVE Coalition – we couldn’t have done it without them. “

Steven Cope
Building and Neighborhood Improvement Supervisor
City of Joplin

To learn more about joining Missouri’s SAVE Coalition visit www.sema.dps.mo.gov, or contact Steve Besemer of the State Emergency Management Agency at 573-526-9232.

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