



Missouri Structural Assessment & Visual Evaluation Coalition



Frequently Asked Questions

Background

- **WHAT IS SAVE?** The Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition is a group of professionals whose objective is to help the [State Emergency Management Agency](#) (SEMA) develop and maintain a post-disaster building inspector program. SAVE serves SEMA and the State of Missouri to identify and recruit, train and organize, and mobilize structural inspectors following a disaster. SAVE volunteers are second responders.
- **WHY DO WE NEED SAVE?** Following large-scale disasters (post-earthquake and wind damage events), there is a need to assess buildings for safe occupancy and continued use. State and Local Jurisdictions may not have the resources to inspect a large quantity of buildings in a short period of time, so it is essential to prepare ahead of time to have knowledgeable and trained individuals available on short notice. In Missouri, these individuals are known as SAVE Inspectors.
- **WHO ADMINISTERS SAVE?** SAVE is led by a group of professional organizations, and exists as a "Mobile Reserve Unit" of SEMA.
- **WHO CAN JOIN SAVE?** SAVE Members are usually engineers, architects, building /code officials or other construction and design professionals with an interest in serving following a disaster.
- **ARE THERE SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES?** YES! Programs similar to SAVE exist in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee. The SAVE Program is modeled after the California Inspection Program, which has been in existence for about 25 years. Missouri SAVE has deployed to several major disasters, including the 2011 Joplin EF5 Tornado.
- **HOW CAN A LOCAL JURISDICTION REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM SAVE?** In order for SAVE Volunteers to be deployed, local jurisdictions will need to:
 - Immediately assess the extent and severity of the damage, and determine the need for qualified volunteers.

- Submit a request for volunteers through official channels to SEMA. Using the form provided by SEMA, provide as much of the requested information as is available.
- Designate and provide direction to a meeting place.

Pre-Deployment

- **WHAT IS REQUIRED TO JOIN SAVE?** Completion of a one-day training course (held several times a year throughout the State). Training is provided free of charge, and may count toward your continuing education requirements (for International Code Council, American Institute of Architects and American Society of Civil Engineers).
- **WHEN DOES MY CERTIFICATION EXPIRE?** All certifications expire three years from the date you completed the SAVE Coalition training course (or recertification course).
- **HOW DO I RENEW MY CERTIFICATION?** A SAVE Member has two options to renew their certification; online or in-person.
 - Online recertification can be completed using the following link:
<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/training/documents/save-coalition-re-certification-quiz.swf>
 - In-person recertification can be obtained by attending a SAVE Coalition one-day training course.
- **HOW ARE SAVE MEMBERS NOTIFIED TO RESPOND?**
 - After you have been through the one-day training and received your certification, you are required to register with Show-Me Response (<https://www.showmeresponse.org/>).
 - Show-Me Response is Missouri’s online registration and credentialing system; a database for volunteers. This site is operated by SEMA in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and allows you to register as a volunteer willing to provide services during a disaster or emergency situation.

Deployment

- **WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN SAVE MEMBERS ARE “MOBILIZED”?**
 - SEMA will contact the Statewide Coordinator to request an appropriate number of qualified volunteers be alerted for assignment.
 - Under most circumstances, you will not be asked to serve for more than three consecutive days (not including travel time).
 - You will receive instructions on when, where, and to whom to report via Show-Me Response.

- Upon arrival at an assigned jurisdiction, volunteers will be briefed on:
 1. Any special policies in effect.
 2. Potential or existing hazards to be aware of.
 3. Safety precautions.
 4. Housing accommodations and eating arrangements. However, you should be prepared to self-sustain for up to 24 hrs.
 5. Reimbursement Policy: If not otherwise provided, the Local Jurisdiction is responsible to reimburse volunteers they have requested. Reimbursable costs include housing, food, travel and other necessary expenses. Volunteers must submit receipts of expenses for reimbursement.
 6. An explanation of the use of assessment forms and the jurisdiction's posting policies.
 7. A public information list from the jurisdiction with phone numbers and locations of first aid stations, emergency shelters, police, fire, building department and other information the jurisdiction deems important.
 8. A list of structures (or areas) to be evaluated.

- **WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME TO AN EVENT WHEN SAVE IS “MOBILIZED”?**
 - A State or Federal issued Photo ID card
 - SAVE ID card
 - Dress for the weather
 - Work boots
 - Water bottle
 - Clipboard
 - Pens
 - ATC-20 field manual (if one was issued to you)
 - Hard hat (if you have one)
 - Orange or Yellow safety vest (if you have one)
 - Digital camera (if you have one)
 - You should be prepared to self-sustain for up to 24 hours.

- **WHAT ABOUT LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR SAVE MEMBERS?** In accordance with Missouri Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSM) and the current version of the SEMA State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), SAVE Members working under the emergency reservist program will not be personally liable either jointly or separately for any act or acts committed in the performance of their official duties as reservists except in the case of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

SAVE COALITION PARTNERS

American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri (ACEC/MO)

American Institute of Architects/Missouri (AIA/MO)

American Society of Civil Engineers Missouri Section (ASCE/MO)

Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/New Madrid Chapter

Missouri Association of Code Enforcement (MACE)

Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE)

Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), Missouri Post

Structural Engineers Association of Kansas and Missouri (SEKAM)

Missouri Seismic Safety Commission

IN COOPERATION WITH

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA – Missouri)

Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC)