

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Storm Related Damage

Q1). When should I call the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS)?

A). Whenever you are not sure if it is safe to occupy your building due to damage or the potential for damage from rain, flooding, mud flows, or slope failures.

Q2). How do I contact LADBS?

A). You can contact us by email through this web site, by calling our operators at (888) LA4BUILD, or by dialing 311.

Q3). What does a "RED TAG" mean?

A). When a building has been posted with a red placard, it has been determined by LADBS to be "UNSAFE TO OCCUPY". No one is allowed to enter the building, except an engineer hired by you to evaluate your building, without first contacting LADBS.

Q4). What does a "YELLOW TAG" mean?

A). When a building has been posted with a yellow placard (RESTRICTED USE), it has been determined by LADBS that the building has sustained some structural damage or may be subject to potential damage. The placard will contain information regarding the type of damage and the areas of the building that may be occupied.

Q5). What does a "GREEN TAG" mean?

A). This placard means that the structure has been inspected by LADBS and has been determined safe to occupy. It does not necessarily mean that there is no damage to the building, only that it is OK to occupy and that there is not visible structural damage.

Q6). What should I do if my building has been posted?

A). If your building has been posted either RED or YELLOW, you should contact a private licensed structural engineer to assess the damage and make recommendations on the repair. Those recommendations along with plans and specifications should be submitted to LADBS for review and approval. Once you have obtained LADBS approval of your plans, permits can be issued and the repairs can be made. LADBS will provide the necessary inspections.

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Q7). What should I do if I live at the top of a slope or hill?

A). If you suspect that there may be a potential for damage, you should contact a licensed geologist and geo-technical engineer to make an assessment of the potential threat. If there is a problem you should submit the findings to LADBS for review.

Q8). What signs of potential damage do I look for during the rainy season?

A). Mud flows, large cracks in the slope that may indicate the possibility of slope failures, excessive water flows that may be undermining the footings of structures or walls, excessive cracking of the building or slopes, and movement of any kind of the surrounding slopes and hillsides.