

8.80.012-P Lateral Force Upgrade

- (1) Improvements for lateral resistance to existing structures are not mandated to conform to current code requirements for new construction. Seismic improvements to existing structures are being made voluntarily by Portland Public Schools in the interests of school safety. The criteria of the FEMA 178 Handbook for the Seismic Evaluation of Existing Buildings is hereby selected as a general guideline for the evaluation and upgrading of facilities. This document is published by the Building Seismic Safety Council and the Federal Emergency Management Agency specifically for the purpose of providing a nationally recognized guideline for decisions on earthquake preparedness and lateral upgrade of existing structures.
- (2) Reasonable criteria based on generally accepted structural guidelines and procedures for determining the probable strength and performance of existing framing elements shall be considered in addition to the standard of FEMA 178. Testing and thorough investigation to establish reasonable projections of existing materials and performance is encouraged in lieu of overly conservative assumptions and processes which may prove unduly expensive to implement.
- (3) The highest priority of improvements shall be those which prevent overall collapse of the buildings, and which preserve the function and safety of the exit corridors out of the facility.
- (4) Lower upgrade priority shall be given to zones of the building which are not part of or near exit paths, and/or which are occupied by the least number of occupants, and/or which are occupied for the proportionally smallest periods of time.
- (5) The lowest upgrade priority shall be given to strengthening elements of the facility whose failure in an earthquake event will not endanger lives, block exits, nor endanger occupants exiting from the building. Examples of this could include low retaining walls, low masonry veneers which might fall into safe zones without causing failure of supporting structural members, and ornamental /non-structural components.
- (6) In general, given the limited funds available, it shall not be the policy of the district to implement any upgrading falling into this lowest priority level, until and unless additional funds become available to do so in the future.

Legal References:

History: Adpt 5/21/01, BA 1867