

Boise State University Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute students and faculty to start building evaluations at the end of May.

Southeast Idaho is one of the most seismically active areas of the state. Idaho's Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) wants to identify buildings that are vulnerable to earthquakes in Caribou, Bear Lake, Franklin and Oneida Counties.

FEMA, IOEM, and their contractors have worked with Boise State University's Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute (HCRI) to support this project.

BSU students and faculty will start field work to assess county identified buildings in May and June. State buildings and schools that have already been assessed are not a part of this project.

The HCRI team will use the "rapid visual screening" method during the inspections. This will help them get a sense of how safe and usable the buildings are during and after earthquakes. Local officials can use the data to plan future actions. These could include retrofits, emergency response, and mitigation projects.

At the end of the project, each county will have a resilience toolkit. It will include a list of actions that citizens can take to be more resilient. The project is expected to end in late July.

We cannot prevent earthquakes. Still, IOEM wants to take every opportunity to prepare, educate and mitigate future damage to best support the community in response to a disaster.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to IOEM: Susan Cleverley, Mitigation Section Chief, scleverley@imd.idaho.gov / (208) 258-6545. You can also reach out to Darin Letzring, Southeastern Idaho Area Field Officer, dletzring@imd.idaho.gov / (208) 258-6563.

