

# FEMA 154 - Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings for Potential Seismic Hazards



May 7, 2010

**AR Electric Cooperative Corporation  
Little Rock, Arkansas**



Sponsored by  
**Arkansas Department of Emergency Management**

Instructed by  
**Steve Sharp, P.E.**  
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp.

## About FEMA 154

Rapid Visual Screening of Building for Potential Seismic Hazards (RVS) was developed by FEMA as a pre-disaster procedure that can be implemented relatively quickly and inexpensively within a community to develop a list of potentially hazardous buildings without the high cost of a detailed seismic analysis of individual buildings.

The RVS procedure is designed to be implemented without performing structural analysis calculations. It uses a scoring system that requires the user to (1) identify the primary structural lateral-load-resisting system; and (2) identify building attributes that modify the seismic performance expected of this lateral-load-resisting system. The inspection, data collection, and decision-making process typically will occur at the building site, taking an average of 15 to 30 minutes per building (30 minutes to one hour if access to the interior is available). Results are recorded on Data Collection Forms. The Data Collection Form includes space for documenting building identification information, including its use and size, a photograph of the building, sketches, and documentation of pertinent data related to seismic performance, including the development of a numeric seismic hazard score.

If a building receives a high score (i.e., above a specified cut-off score), the building is considered to have adequate seismic resistance. If a building receives a low score

on the basis of this RVS procedure, it should be evaluated by a professional engineer having experience or training in seismic design. On the basis of this detailed inspection, engineering analyses, and other detailed procedures, a final determination of the need for rehabilitation can be made.

## Who Should Attend

Architects, professional engineers, building inspectors or skilled construction industry personnel with general building design, construction, or inspection experience that are interested in learning more about the rapid visual screening process.

## Co-Sponsors:



**FEMA**



**Central U.S.  
Earthquake Consortium**



**Arkansas Electric  
Cooperative Corp.**



## Course Outline

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This course will be instructed in a classroom style setting, and student/teacher interaction is welcomed and encouraged. Some of the topics that will be covered in the course are -

*Earthquake Hazard Overview*

*FEMA 154 Process / Data Collection*

*Steel Frame Structure Behavior*

*Concrete Structure Behavior*

*Wood Frame Structure Behavior*

*Masonry Structure Behavior*

*Structural Modifiers & Scoring*

*Sidewalk Survey (Weather Permitting)*

*Discussion / Questions*

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Certificates of completion will be presented after the completion of the course. Professional Development Hours will be offered for engineers.

## REGISTRATION FEES

There is no charge for this workshop. Materials are provided and include the FEMA 154: Rapid Visual Screening Handbook.

## Registration Information

Please pre-register for this course. Participant space is limited, and openings are on a first come, first serve basis. Please complete the online registration by April 23, 2010 <http://www.register.cusec.org>.

## COURSE LOCATION

AR Electric Cooperative Corporation  
1 Cooperative Way  
Little Rock, AR 72209  
(501) 570-2200  
Board Room

## COURSE INFORMATION

Course will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. Lunch is being provided free of charge to course participants. If you need directions to the course location, please call the number listed above.

## SUGGESTED LOCAL HOTEL

Wingate by Wyndham- Little Rock  
1212 South Shackleford Road  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
Phone: (501) 227-6800  
Fax: (501) 227-6819  
Please call ahead for rates & availability (ask for AR Electric Cooperatives rate).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mr. Steve Sharp  
Principal Engineer  
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp.  
Phone: (501) 570-2467  
Email: [ssharp@aecc.com](mailto:ssharp@aecc.com)

or

Mrs. Veronica Villalobos-Pogue  
Earthquake Program Manager  
Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management  
Phone: (501) 683-6700  
Email:  
[Veronica.pogue@adem.arkansas.gov](mailto:Veronica.pogue@adem.arkansas.gov)

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