

QUICK INSPECTIONS OF DAMAGED BUILDINGS DUE TO 1995 HYOGOKEN-NAMBU EARTHQUAKE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Mitigation of secondary disaster due to aftershocks is one of the most essential issues after a major earthquake. Following the Hyogoken-nambu Earthquake (Kobe Earthquake) on January 17, 1995, quick inspections of damaged buildings were systematically carried out for the first time in Japan to assess their potential risk due to aftershocks, and the importance of such activities was highly recognized. In this paper, the inspection operations are briefly described and problems that should be solved for future earthquake preparedness measures are discussed.

2. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF QUICK INSPECTIONS IN JAPAN

Table 1 summarizes the background history of quick inspections in Japan. The importance of post-earthquake inspection and evaluation of damaged buildings has been strongly recognized in Japan since 1980 Southern Italy Earthquake. One of the most essential lessons learned from the quake was the needs of post-earthquake inspection of damaged buildings since people in the affected areas were afraid that their houses might collapse due to aftershocks and they needed reliable inspections to identify safety/risk of damaged houses.

TABLE 1. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF QUICK INSPECTIONS IN JAPAN

Year	Earthquakes	Event
1980	Southern Italy	
1981		National Research Program on <i>Development of Rehabilitation Techniques for Damaged Buildings</i>
1985	Mexico	Development of Guideline for Inspection Application of Guideline to approximately 20 Buildings in Mexico city
1991		Publication of Standard for Inspection
1992		Establishment of Inspectors System in Shizuoka and Kanagawa Prefectures
1993	Kushiro-oki	Application of Standard
1994	Sanriku-oki	Application of Standard
1995	Hyogoken-nambu	Application of Standard