



# DISASTER RESPONSE RESOURCES

## **Guidelines for Residential Repair Permits After a Disaster**

*Toolkit for CBF Congregations  
and Disaster Recovery Teams*

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# **Guidelines for Residential Repair Permits After a Disaster**

## **Toolkit for CBF Congregations and Disaster Recovery Teams**

Regardless of location in the United States, residential repair permits will be required for repairs that involve the replacement of existing structural members and other building elements. As regulations may vary from location to location, it is important for affected property owners and disaster recovery teams to contact county and city building permit departments regarding repairs and permits.

**Repair permits would be expected to be required for plumbing, electrical, and structural repairs.**

**Although permits may not be required for the following repairs, exemptions for each should be verified:**

- Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work, including the repair of damaged gypsum board that is not part of a fire-rated assembly
- Interior trim and finish work
- Wood or metal fences less than 8 feet tall
- Wood floors
- Uncovered detached decks
- Repair of exterior wood fascia, trim, and soffits
- Siding that does not exceed 128 square feet and is not part of a fire-rated assembly
- Roof covering that does not exceed 100 square feet

\* Although cabinets are not required to be permitted, any replacement of plumbing or electrical fixtures within will require permits.

### **Applying for a Repair Permit**

1. After downloading relevant forms or obtaining them at the local building permitting office, complete the local building permit application as well as any other applications for required permits (i.e. residential repair spec list). Each location will have its own procedures for submitting completed applications and providing subsequent notifications.
2. A repair plan review will be performed by local analysts who will review the applications, spec lists and/or other required documents to ensure that the proposed repairs are for replacing like-for-like building elements and are following applicable codes
3. If proposed repairs involve plumbing, electrical, or HVAC work, then each licensed contractor must purchase a separate permit for that portion of the work
4. The final step of the application process will be payment for approved plans and receipt of the permit(s)

Inspection considerations:

- Generally, inspections (plumbing, electrical, etc.) must be scheduled before drywall is replaced.
- Verify local inspection building codes. If work within walls is covered without inspections, then the drywall must be removed before the permit can be finalized.
- After all work is completed, schedule a final inspection through the local structural inspections section.