



Missouri SAVE Coalition

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

*American Council of Engineering Companies/Missouri * American Institute of Architects/Missouri
American Society of Civil Engineers/St. Louis * Earthquake Engineering Research Institute/New Madrid
Missouri Society of Professional Engineers * Structural Engineers Association of Kansas & Missouri
Society of American Military Engineers/St. Louis * Missouri Association for Code Enforcement
Missouri Seismic Safety Commission*

SAVE Coalition Board Quarterly Meeting Meeting Minutes November 15, 2024

Attendance – Board members Ben Ross, Michael Alberswerth, Vicki LaRose, Scott Perkins, Thomas Bahr, Curtis Goben, James Sisk, Alan Napoli, Dennis Kidwell, Joe Leahy, Jack Johannes, Dave Weber, Ted Pruess and Dennis Cox, as well as Brian Blake from CUSEC, Chris Harmon and Christopher Dain from the American Red Cross and Melissa Friel, Amy Lepper and Jeff Briggs from SEMA.

Minutes Approved

With a motion from Michael Alberswerth and second from Tom Bahr, **the board unanimously approved the minutes from the August 16 meeting.**

Red Cross Partnership

Chris Harmon and Christopher Dain of the Missouri and Arkansas Regional Office of the American Red Cross asked for SAVE's help with disaster assessments. The Red Cross needs volunteers to conduct assessments after disasters, either in-state or anywhere in the country. All travel costs and training would be provided.

Jeff Briggs clarified what the Red Cross is asking – access to SAVE's membership database to request volunteers, which would be entirely separate from a SAVE deployment.

The board supported this request, with several saying this is an excellent opportunity to partner with the Red Cross, as well as offer deployment experience to SAVE volunteers.

Briggs will set up a meeting with the Red Cross and SAVE board representatives to work out details.

Board Appointments

Joe Leahy welcomed new board member Curtis Goben, representing AIA Missouri. Goben said he's an architect based in Jefferson City, a SAVE member, and active on the AIA board. Goben replaces Kurt Krueger.

Training Updates

Jeff Briggs said the training classes have concluded for the year, with the final training Nov. 8 in St. Louis. Previous classes this quarter were Oct. 18 in Cape Girardeau and Sept. 20 in Kansas City, all well-attended. Around 250 new and renewed members were trained this year.

Next, preparations will start for next year's classes. Briggs said he'll talk with instructors and venue hosts in the next few weeks, with the goal of **issuing the 2025 training schedule around the first of the year, when it will be posted to the web site and emailed to all members.** He also suggested an on-site leader training in 2025, if Ben Ross and Mike Griffin are willing. Ross agreed.

Ross asked if there was still interest in an on-site leader training in Tennessee. Brian Blake said that's in the works as part of Tennessee's exercise planning; he'll be in touch as that progresses.

Seismic Safety Commission

Jeff Briggs said the Earthquake Insight Field Trip, where participants travel throughout the New Madrid Seismic Zone learning about the geology and history of the area, was planned for November but has been **pushed back to April 2025.** When it's scheduled he'll update the board.

CUSEC Update

Brian Blake said CUSEC is working with Tennessee on a multi-state earthquake exercise, similar to SAVE's previous efforts at Jefferson Barracks. It's planned for mid-May; exact date and location still to be determined. CUSEC will have some travel funding available for participants from other states. On-site leader training is planned as part of this effort. Blake will be in touch with Ben Ross and Mike Griffin as this develops. He also said there may be a virtual option for the on-site leader training.

CUSEC is working with Missouri and other states to evaluate critical infrastructure in high seismic areas, using P-154 methodology to conduct Level 1 screenings. Mike Griffin is helping to coordinate the project. Blake said the long-term goal is to evaluate thousands of structures and get the results into a database, which can be used by SAVE and other organizations to give an overview of conditions and assessment priorities.

Longer term, Blake said a multi-state exercise similar to Shaken Fury is planned for four to five years from now. It will also include resource allocation workshops, helping to determine how many SAVE volunteers could be needed for a big earthquake, for example.

Trimming Membership Rolls

Jeff Briggs said the plan is to target volunteers whose membership is at least two years past expiration, asking them to take a class to get updated. If not interested, or if there's no response, we'll move them to inactive status. Of the 1,500 volunteers in the SAVE database in Show Me Response, about 600 meet this criteria.

Briggs has been working with the Show Me Response administrator and now has a list of the expired members to be contacted. **He plans to send a note initiating contact in January, when there's a list of SAVE trainings that can be taken.**

Exercise Calendar Review

Ben Ross said he understood that May 14-18 is the schedule for the Tennessee exercise. Brian Blake said that is the window for the exercise, but the building evaluation portion will likely be one or two days in that period. Blake also reiterated that CUSEC will have some funding available for SAVE members to attend.

Ross said that the materials prepared for the recent exercise in downtown St. Louis can be re-used at any time, so **he suggested another exercise, perhaps in the Fall of 2026**, be added to the calendar. He asked whether we should have it in-person again, or perhaps try something virtually, with building assessments loaded into the app. Ted Pruss and Joe Leahy expressed a preference for in-person. Ross said a location on the west side of the state should be considered.

Drone Working Group

Jeff Briggs said he's talked with Dave Hooker, SEMA's head of air operations, who has indicated that a FAA 107 license would be sufficient to fly a drone in a disaster area. And he's worked with Scott Perkins, who has provided a link to the "blue list" of drones approved by the Department of Defense. **He suggested a note to all SAVE members asking for their participation in a "SAVE Drone Force" for volunteers who have the 107 license, have access to a qualified drone, and would be willing to deploy.** The request will be extended not only to SAVE members, but to others they may know who meet the qualifications.

Ted Pruss voiced his approval of the approach, and Joe Leahy agreed. Ben Ross asked whether the FAA could approve in writing of this approach; Briggs will ask Hooker about this. **Briggs will draft a note for review.**

EMAC/MRP

Ben Ross asked for an update on EMAC funding. Jeff Briggs said SEMA's fiscal office told him that the fix for updating the funding reimbursement process in Missouri is targeted for July 2025. In the meantime, the Governor's office has a pot of money available for emergencies that SAVE may be able to tap into if requested.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 21 at 11 a.m.