

The knowRISK Portfolio and Practical Guide for non-structural components: tools for preparedness and community resilience

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Individuals and householders are expected to take responsibility for preparing, responding to and recovering from disasters. Authorities recommend that populations are prepared to look after themselves for at least three days or more after an emergency.

Preparedness is a good indicator of community resilience. If people actively plan and prepare for protecting life and property, based on their awareness of the specific threats in their area, they can help their family and the wider community to re-establish stability after the event.

The European project KnowRISK (Know your city, Reduce seISMic risK through non-structural components) aims at educating and motivating people to make necessary changes in their homes (secure tall furniture, cabinet doors, reduce risks from breaking glass, etc.) to help protect people, homes, and contents if an earthquake happens. A Portfolio and a Practical Guide with seismic mitigation solutions for non-structural components are being designed for those who are not experienced with this topic in order to start taking the right steps to minimize or avoid injuries, damage, and long-term financial consequences.

The Portfolio addresses non-structural issues typically found in schools, office buildings, retail stores, small business, hotels or museums. It privileges solutions that are economically feasible and easy to implement, as well as more complex solutions related with architectural or electrical/mechanical components.

The main end-users are the architects or engineers who have limited knowledge of non-structural earthquake damage and who need more detailed technical information.

The Practical Guide addresses essentially non-structural issues found in our homes. It privileges DIY (do it yourself) solutions at no cost (ex: move heavy or large items to the floor or low shelves) or low cost solutions as hang mirrors and pictures, install latches on kitchen cabinets, etc. The main end-users are the householders.