



# U.S. Resiliency Council

## Getting-to-Silver Initiative

*Our vision is a world in which people understand and have confidence in the performance of buildings in which they live and work.*



### Increasing value through resiliency

The USRC's mission is to improve community resilience, one building at a time. While even new buildings are not earthquake "proof," most structures designed to the latest codes are expected to perform well when subject to an extreme seismic event. With the proper selection of a structural system and building configuration, and coordination with an engineer and contractor to provide post-earthquake inspections and repairs, many new buildings can distinguish themselves from the 80-90% of older building that do not comply with current codes.

Buildings that are both safe and resilient to natural disasters are more valuable to current and future owners, tenants, lenders and insurers, and to the communities in which they are located.

### A long term investment

The U.S. Resiliency Council Getting-to-Silver Initiative provides a means for owners to achieve a USRC designation that sets their buildings apart as contributing to a resilient community and as good long term investments. Buildings achieving a Silver rating are recognized by the US Green Buildings Council® through their new RELi® Resilience Standard, and the USRC is engaging with communities, lenders and insurers to incentivize USRC rated buildings in recognition of their value and lower risk.

The U.S. Resiliency Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate, advocate and promote better tools for assessing, designing and communicating the performance of buildings during earthquakes and other natural hazards; and to develop and implement rating systems that are both credible and meaningful.

### The USRC Silver rating

An owner of a modern (post 2000) building can typically obtain a USRC Silver rating just by establishing memorandums of understanding with their engineer and contractor to perform an inspection and begin repairs after an earthquake, and with their lender or insurer to make sure that adequate repair financing is in place. It achieves performance in key measures of Safety, Damage and Recovery, indicating expected seismic performance:

- in which loss of life caused directly by damage is not anticipated,
- with an average repair cost of 20% or less of the building's replacement cost
- with a functional recovery time of less than six months.

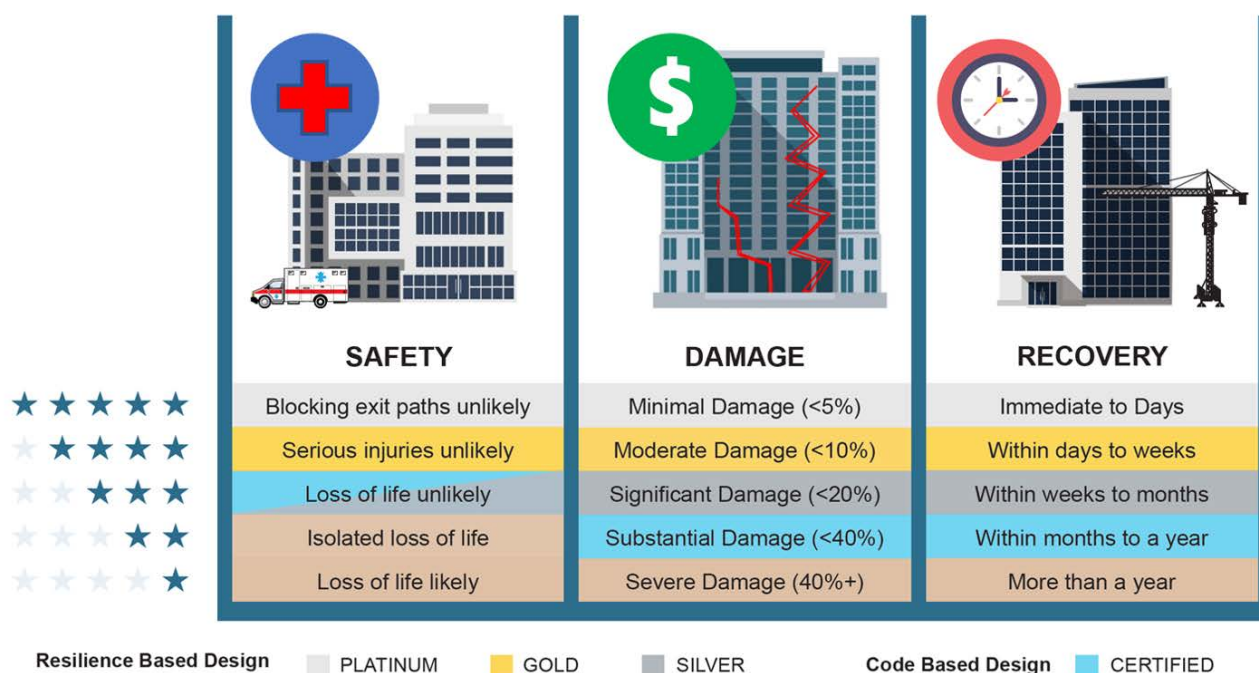
#### For more information

Contact the USRC at [evan.reis@usrc.org](mailto:evan.reis@usrc.org) for more information on how to obtain a USRC rating.

#### Begin your USRC Silver Rating application now

<https://form.jotform.com/92196437438164>

# USRC Building Rating System: Usefulness of Performance Metrics



## What does a USRC rating deliver?

The USRC system provides rating users with greater confidence in a building performance evaluation by delivering:

- **Consistency**—Only certified engineers are able to submit applications for a USRC rating.
- **Credibility**—Rating submissions undergo a technical audit by certified reviewers.
- **Value**—Users receive actionable information about building safety, repair cost, and time to regain function.

## USRC SAFETY rating

The USRC SAFETY rating reflects the expected performance of the building in terms of loss of life, injury, and egress. A USRC SAFETY rating in this context is an indicator of the risk of personal injuries of various types and seriousness, as well as loss of life.

## USRC DAMAGE rating

The USRC DAMAGE rating reflects an estimate of the cost to repair the building after an event, as a percentage of the building's overall replacement cost (not including the replacement of contents), such that it can continue to be used as it was at the time the rating was last issued.

## USRC RECOVERY rating

The USRC RECOVERY rating is an estimate of the time until a property owner or tenant is able to enter and use the building for its basic intended functions. It represents a minimum timeframe to carry out needed repair and to remove major safety hazards and obstacles to occupancy and use. It does not address the condition of external infrastructure (e.g. utilities, transportation) that provide access and services to the building.

# USRC Building Rating System: Getting-to-Silver Requirements

## Who uses the rating system?

Building owners, brokers, buyers, lenders, insurers and tenants all benefit from the USRC rating system.

**Owners** with properties that receive high USRC ratings will benefit from an increase in perceived value, potentially increasing leasing rates and transaction efficiency—the same kind of benefits associated with LEED® accredited properties.

**Lenders and Insurers** use USRC ratings to inform real estate transactions associated with lending decisions and defining insurance products.

**Tenants** value the USRC rating as it relates to both safety and recovery time following a major event.

**Governments and Institutions** use USRC ratings to identify safe buildings and make long-term strategic plans for reducing reconstruction costs and recovery time following a major disaster. As a comparison, over 40 jurisdictions in California require “Green” or LEED® certification of new public and private developments to improve long term sustainability.

## USRC ratings add value

The U.S. Resiliency Council Silver Rating provides a means for owners to achieve a USRC designation that sets their buildings apart as contributing to a resilient community and as good long term investments. The USRC is actively engaging with communities, lenders and insurers to incentivize USRC rated buildings with expedited permits, reduced mortgage and insurance rates, and other recognition of their lower risk and value to their communities.

These firms have been briefed on the Getting-to-Silver initiative and would be happy to work with you to achieve a rating.

If you are working with your own architect or engineer who is not a USRC member, have them contact the USRC at [evan.reis@usrc.org](mailto:evan.reis@usrc.org). We will be pleased to brief them on the initiatives so that they can help you achieve a USRC Silver Rating.

## How do I apply for a USRC Getting-to-Silver Rating?

More than 40 leading structural engineering and architectural firms with expertise in the seismic design of new buildings are members of the USRC. A list can be found at <http://www.usrc.org/index/members>.

## Can I apply for a rating if I don't go through the Getting-to-Silver Initiative?

Absolutely. The Getting-to-Silver Initiative is designed as a streamlined approach to a USRC rating for buildings built to the most recent building codes. Buildings built to older codes may be eligible for a USRC Silver rating through the standard USRC process. Buildings may also be eligible for a USRC Gold or Platinum rating through the standard USRC process.

# USRC Building Rating System: Getting-to-Silver Requirements

## Getting-to-Silver Checklist

- ☐ Building designed to International Building Code (2000 edition or later).
  - ☐ Building's lateral-force-resisting system not a wood frame structure of more than three stories.
  - ☐ Building is less than 20 stories.
  - ☐ USRC Getting-to-Silver application submitted by a USRC Certified Rating Professional (or a licensed Professional Engineer).
  - ☐ The building has no plan or vertical irregularities as identified in the International Building Code.
  - ☐ Engineering calculations attached to application.
  - ☐ Structural building drawings attached to application.
- If building is other than a wood framed or rigid wall-flexible diaphragm structure:
- ☐ the owner has retained a structural engineer to provide post-event inspection and to design repairs. Retainer letter attached to application.
  - ☐ the owner has retained a contractor to mobilize post-event to make repairs. Retainer letter attached to application.
  - ☐ The owner has budgeted for financing repairs through means other than government loans (e.g. earthquake insurance, a bank letter of credit, private loan financing).
  - ☐ Letter from owner stating method of financing attached to application.
  - ☐ USRC Rating fee is included in application. (\*see chart below)

Gross Area (ksf)	0-25	25-50	50-100	100-200	200-300	300-500	500-1,000	1,000+
USRC Rating fee	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000



### For More Information

To learn whether your building may be eligible to receive a USRC Silver rating through the Getting-to-Silver Initiative, contact the U.S. Resiliency Council.

**Evan Reis, SE, USRC Executive Director**  
(650) 877-2150 • [evan.reis@usrc.org](mailto:evan.reis@usrc.org)

**Begin your USRC Silver Rating application now**

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