



## BASE Line

January – March 2010

Steven M. Baldrige, S.E., LEED AP

Frank K. Humay, Ph.D., S.E.

Daniel R. Popp, S.E.

Kulia Pacheco-Boerstler, P.E., S.E.

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On January 12, 2010 a catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the small island nation of Haiti causing devastation in the epicenter of Leogane and the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The disaster has affected millions of Haitians, claimed approximately 230,000 lives, and destroyed or significantly damaged thousands of residences and buildings. BASE's experience in disaster response and structural assessment allowed us to aid in the Haiti relief effort.

- Since the January earthquake, Baldrige has traveled to Haiti twice. Baldrige's first visit in January was on a reconnaissance team organized by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and the Learning from Earthquakes (LFE) Program. The team's initial goal was to survey and document the damage; however, the mission became a humanitarian effort as they were asked to assess hospitals, housing, and schools to determine if they were safe for people to re-enter and use for the relief efforts. At the end of his mission, a delay in available flights out of Haiti provided him with an opportunity to help deliver relief supplies to a neighborhood in Port-au-Prince. In March Baldrige traveled to Haiti again, this time working with a Hawaii contractor to help in the rebuilding of Haiti.

Haiti was BASE's most recent response to catastrophe; however, Baldrige and his BASE employees have also lent their expertise to past natural disasters and have received training in urban search and rescue.

- After the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Samoa in September 2009, Baldrige volunteered his time and expertise investigating structural damage for the EERI.
- BASE volunteered staff for one week on the Big Island to assess the damage caused by the Kiholo Bay earthquake in October 2006.
- Baldrige and Frank Humay traveled to the Fairfax County Firefighters Academy to receive training in urban search and rescue as structures specialists for collapsed building rescue. They have been involved with the Hawaii Urban Search & Rescue Task Force.
- BASE has provided review of disaster shelters for the Hawaii State Civil Defense.
- BASE has played a key role in the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii Disaster Response Committee.

*BASE and its dedicated employees are committed to ensuring public safety by not only providing performance-based seismic design, but also by volunteering their knowledge and capabilities in providing assistance in emergency response.*



# BASE Disaster Response



## Haiti Earthquake



## Samoa Earthquake and Tsunami



## Urban Search & Rescue Training, Fairfax County Fire Fighters Academy, Virginia



## Big Island Kiholo Bay Earthquake

