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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### DISASTER SAFETY & MITIGATION ARE THEMES OF BUILDING SAFETY MONTH 2011

HONOLULU, HAWAII – April 28, 2011 – May is Building Safety Month and Baldrige & Associates Structural Engineering, Inc. (BASE) is bringing attention to the importance of building safety and disaster mitigation. The importance of disaster mitigation was evident in the aftermath of the magnitude 9.0 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan on March 11, 2011. The earthquake and tsunami waves of up to 124 feet resulted in over 14,000 deaths while over 10,000 people are still missing.

BASE has long been involved in the advancement of the design of buildings to mitigate the impact of natural and manmade disasters. One can only imagine how many more casualties there could have been if Japan did not have a culture of strict building codes, hazard education and infrastructure investment. BASE has been active in the development of reports and publications that guide designers to create more disaster resilient communities. One such report is the *Design of Structures for Vertical Evacuation from Tsunamis: State of the Art Report and Preliminary Recommendations*. This report provides guidance for the design and construction of tsunami-resistant structures allowing for vertical evacuation from tsunami inundation. “Vertical evacuation is especially critical in Hawaii because our coastal areas, like Waikiki and Ala Moana, are where so many of our high-rises are,” says BASE President Steven



Baldrige. “Not only is it important that new coastal structures in Hawaii be designed to withstand tsunamis, but existing buildings may want to consider making sure they meet current building codes.”

BASE also prepared a case study for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) about the 2006 Kiholo earthquake on the Big Island and its effects on the infrastructure and operations of Kawaihae Harbor. It is to be used as technical guidance for seismic mitigation and preparation of the port facilities in the Pacific Islands.

Building Safety Month recognizes professionals who help to ensure that our buildings are built safely from the ground up, and remain safe through the years. These professionals include building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners. Other themes of Building Safety Month include energy and green building, fire safety and awareness, and backyard safety.

Building Safety Month began as Building Safety Week in 1980 and is sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC), a membership organization dedicated to building safety and fire prevention. The ICC develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states, including Hawaii, use International Codes – building safety codes developed by the ICC.

For more information regarding Building Safety Month or the International Code Council, please visit [www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org).

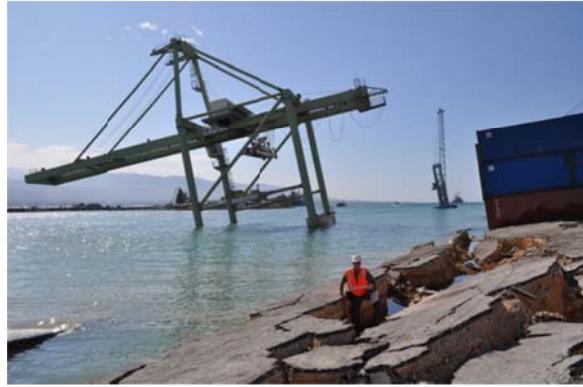


**Disaster Safety & Mitigation are Themes of Building Safety Month 2011**

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Damage from the tsunami that struck Samoa on September 29, 2009.



BASE President Steven Baldrige at Haiti's port just days after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake on January 12, 2010.

Baldrige & Associates Structural Engineering, Inc. (BASE) is an internationally recognized full service structural engineering and forensic consulting firms with offices in Honolulu, Guam, and Chicago. Projects in its vast portfolio include government, commercial, and residential work. Since its inception, BASE has encouraged the evaluation of each project from the client's point of view with emphasis on schedule, economy and detail as reflected by the unique needs of the client and their project. This commitment has guided BASE in the successful completion of projects both large and small not only in Hawaii, but also in India, Guam, Korea, the U.A.E., and the U.S. mainland. BASE also operates BASE Testing & Inspection (T&I) and BASE Research & Development (R&D). For more information, please visit [www.baseenr.com](http://www.baseenr.com).

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