

Buildings vulnerable 20 years after LA earthquake

January 16 2014

Twenty years after a strong earthquake struck Los Angeles and surrounding communities, engineers say buildings around the region remain vulnerable.

There has been an effort to strengthen freeways and hospitals, but there has been less attention paid to concrete buildings and housing with ground-floor parking.

The Northridge quake hit before dawn on January 17, 1994. Within seconds, freeway overpasses collapsed, buildings were ruined and fires ignited. Several dozens were killed and more than 9,000 were injured.

City building inspectors recently proposed to survey 30,000 apartments built before 1978 to determine which might be compromised during violent shaking.

Earlier this week, the city announced a partnership with government scientists to develop a plan to address [seismic safety](#) including ways to get privately-owned buildings to be more quake-proof.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Buildings vulnerable 20 years after LA earthquake (2014, January 16) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-01-vulnerable-years-la-earthquake.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.