

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

REPEALING AND REENACTING BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 19.28.050
(ORDINANCE NO 6727-NS) SAFETY ASSESSMENT PLACARDS FOR THE POSTING OF
STANDARD PLACARDS TO INDICATE THE CONDITION OF A STRUCTURE FOR
CONTINUED OCCUPANCY FOLLOWING A HAZARD EVENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That Berkeley Municipal Code Section 19.28.050 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 19.28.050 Safety Assessment Placards

A new section is added to the Uniform Building Code Section 102.3 as follows:

A. Intent.

This chapter establishes standard placards to be used to indicate the condition of a structure for continued occupancy. The chapter further authorizes the Building Official and his or her authorized representatives to post the appropriate placard at each entry point to a building or structure upon completion of a safety assessment.

B. Application of Provisions.

The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all building and structure of all occupancies regulated by the City of Berkeley. The Council may extend the provisions as necessary.

C. Definitions.

“Safety Assessment” is a visual, non-destructive examination of a building or structure for the purpose of determining the condition for continued occupancy.

D. Placards.

The following are verbal descriptions of the official jurisdiction placards to be used to designate the condition for continued occupancy of buildings or structures. Copies of actual placards are on file in the Planning Department.

1. INSPECTED – Lawful Occupancy Permitted is to be posted on any building or structure wherein no apparent structural hazard has been found. This placard is not intended to mean that there is no damage to the building or structure.

2. RESTRICTED USE is to be posted on each building or structure that has been damaged wherein the damage has resulted in some form of restriction to be the continued occupancy. The individual who posts this placard will note in general terms the type of damage encountered and will clearly and concisely note the restrictions on continued occupancy.

3. UNSAFE – Do Not Enter or Occupy is to be posted on each building or structure that has been damaged such that continued occupancy poses a threat to life safety. Building or structures posted with this placard shall not be entered under any circumstances except as authorized in writing by the Building Official, or his or her authorized representative. Safety assessment teams shall be authorized to enter these building at any time. This placard is not to be used or considered as a demolition order. The individual who posts this placard will note in general terms the type of damage encountered.

E. This BMC Section number, and the words City of Berkeley shall be permanently affixed to each placard.

F. Once a placard has been attached to a building or structure, it is not to be removed, altered or covered until done so by an authorized representative of the Building Official. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to alter, remove, cover or deface a placard unless authorized pursuant to this section.

Section 2. Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of Old City Hall, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.