



State Of California
SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.



NEWS RELEASE

ALFRED E. ALQUIST SEISMIC SAFETY COMMISSION

**California Seismic Safety Commissioner and Earthquake Structural Engineering Expert
has been dispatched to earthquake devastated Ecuador**

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SACRAMENTO – A member of the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission, Dr. H. Kit Miyamoto, will travel to Ecuador this weekend to help assess damage from the recent series of earthquakes in that country.

Dr. Miyamoto, President of Miyamoto International and Miyamoto Global Disaster Relief, will arrive with a team from his company on Sunday and will travel to Portoviejo, and other hard-hit areas. While there, he will meet with representatives of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, international agencies and the private sector.

“As structural engineers, we have the responsibility to assist in these disasters,” said Dr. Miyamoto. “Earthquakes don’t kill people, buildings kill people. We know how to assess whether buildings are safe or not. This type of information is especially important right after of a major earthquake and we are happy to assist Ecuador in any way we can.”

Dr. Miyamoto is a structural engineering expert who has traveled to disaster zones in Haiti, Japan, New Zealand and Nepal for the past decade, providing expertise in disaster response, recovery and mitigation and bringing that experience and expertise to the Commission.

The April 16, 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the west coast of Ecuador, injuring 7,000 people and killing at least 570. A 6.1-magnitude aftershock struck Wednesday.

The Seismic Safety Commission was established in 1975 to advise the Governor, Legislature, State and local government agencies, and the public on ways of reducing the earthquake risk to the people of California. It is an agency composed of 20 commissioners chosen for their expertise and experience.
