



MASONRY

A Publication of the Masonry Industry Promotion Group

FALL 2020

Spokane Building Receives Earthquake Performance Rating

The Central Spokane YMCA/YWCA recently achieved the U.S. Resiliency Council (USRC) Silver rating. This new rating system was established for modern (post-2000) buildings and indicates the expected performance during and after a major seismic event.

This building is constructed with reinforced concrete masonry unit walls which serve as shear walls to resist earthquake loads. The resilient qualities of concrete masonry construction help achieve key performance targets including fire safety, limited building damage, and a short operational recovery time.

Buildings that are both safe and resilient to natural disasters are more valuable to current and future owners, tenants, lenders/insurers, and to the communities in which they are located.

Tom Young, Executive Director of NWCMA, explains, "A resilient building is an asset to a community. In addition to being a good long-term investment it can often serve as a recovery operations center or provide shelter to a community impacted by a natural disaster."



Achieving the USRC Silver rating for existing buildings recognizes the inherent resiliency of reinforced masonry buildings. The Spokane Central YMCA/YWCA was one of the first two buildings rated in the U.S. under the USRC Getting-to-Silver initiative.

When a natural disaster such as an earthquake strikes, it is critical to have safe buildings that sustain minimal damage and quickly achieve functionality. Resilient buildings perform well and contribute to resilient communities.

Architect: ALSC Architects, Engineer: Coffman Engineers, Mason Contractor: Spilker Masonry