

25 Years Later – The Northridge California Earthquake, It's Impact on Masonry, and TMS's Response

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Abstract:

While many investigations and findings have affected how masonry is designed, detailed, constructed and repaired, few events in recent memory likely affected masonry as much as the Northridge, California earthquake, which struck the Los Angeles area on January 17, 1994, 25 years ago. Its after-effects not only had an impact on masonry, but on The Masonry Society itself, how TMS was viewed, and its future role in advancing the knowledge of masonry. This paper is a look back at circumstances just prior to the Northridge CA earthquake; the event itself; how masonry performed; TMS's response to the event; changes as a result of the findings of the TMS investigation; and TMS recommendations for further study and work.

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DOI: 10.70803/001c.137721

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