



TO: Members, National Society of Professional Engineers

The National Society of Professional Engineers extends its heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the people of Haiti, particularly those hit hardest by last week's earthquake. This may well be one of the worst natural disasters in Haiti's history, compounded by the violence and looting that take place in the wake of such events. We are all feeling the need to assist in the gargantuan relief effort and in the restoration and rebuilding that is to come. Monetary donations are best received by one of the charitable organizations listed on the United States Agency for International Development Web site, <http://www.usaid.gov/helphaiti/>, or by another reputable relief or religious organization working in the country.

As professional engineers, we have special skills and expertise to offer, in addition to our commitment to safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare. Many of you have asked how to engage and assist the citizens of Haiti at this most difficult time, and many NSPE members have volunteered to provide assistance in areas such as structural safety assessment, damage assessment, water supply, sanitation, power supply, and communicable disease prevention and control. These services are being coordinated through several federal and state agencies. NSPE has contacted these agencies to offer help in the recovery and reconstruction and to establish channels for voluntary engineering services to be effectively deployed (see attached letter). At this time, we are being advised to remind engineers NOT to self-deploy to affected areas. If you are interested in assisting, please send your name and specialty area to NSPE Executive Director Larry Jacobson at ljacobson@nspe.org or register with the Center for International Disaster Information at <http://dex.cidi.org>.

The outpouring of offers to provide assistance by the professional engineering community and our sister engineering societies is truly inspirational. Rest assured there will be many opportunities to help the citizens of Haiti, and NSPE will do its best to keep you informed.

Samuel W. Grossman, P.E., F.NSPE
President, National Society of Professional Engineers

Lawrence A. Jacobson
Executive Director, National Society of Professional Engineers