

# 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

## 2. Fiscal Year

2018

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee

## 3b. GSA Committee No.

15122

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

10/04/2016

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

10/04/2018

## 7. Expected Term Date

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

## 8c. Actual Term Date

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

P. L. 107-231

## 13. Effective Date

10/01/2002

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

## 16a. Total Number of Reports

1

## 16b. Report Date

09/18/2018

## 16c. Report Title

NIST NCST FY17 Annual Report to Congress

## Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 3 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 3

## Meetings and Dates

### Purpose

The primary purpose of this meeting is to update the Committee on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations made as a result of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Technical Investigation of the May 22, 2011, Tornado in Joplin, Missouri and provide the Committee with an overview of the ongoing work related to the recent reconnaissance teams deployed to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and California

### Start

02/20/2018 - 02/20/2018

### End

The primary purpose of this meeting is to update the Committee on the progress of the NCST investigation of Hurricane Maria's effects on the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. The goals of the investigation will be to characterize: (1) The wind environment and technical conditions associated with deaths and injuries; (2) the performance of representative critical buildings, and designated safe areas in those buildings, including their dependence on lifelines; and (3) the performance of emergency communications systems and the public's response to such communications.

05/16/2018 - 05/16/2018

The primary purposes of this meeting are to update the Committee on the progress of planning for the NCST technical investigation to study building failures and emergency response and evacuation during Hurricane Maria, which made landfall in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, and the implementation of recommendations from previous NCST investigations, including the Joplin tornado investigation.

08/30/2018 - 08/30/2018

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3**

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$35,854.35	\$32,531.96
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$8,542.49	\$9,500.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$4,846.82	\$3,949.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$49,243.66	\$45,980.96
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.20	0.20

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

This Committee advises the Director of NIST on carrying out the provisions of P.L. 107-231 and reviews the procedures developed under section 2(c)(1) of the Act and reports issued under section 8 of the Act. The Committee advises the Director of NIST by providing advice on the functions of National Construction Safety Teams under section 2(b)(2); providing advice on the composition of Teams under section 3; providing advice on the exercise of authorities under sections 4 and 5; providing advice on the procedures developed under section 2(c)(1); and providing advice on the reports issued under section 8.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Members reflect the wide diversity of technical disciplines and competencies involved in the National Construction Safety Teams investigations. Members are drawn from industry and other communities having an interest in the National Construction Safety Teams investigations, such as, but not limited to, universities, state and local government bodies, non-profit research institutions, and other Federal agencies and laboratories.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The Committee meets at least once per year. To promote efficient spending, as directed by Executive Order 13589, the Committee conducts web conferences or teleconferences in lieu of face-to-face meetings, when feasible.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

This Committee is required by law. The law requires this Advisory Committee to help the

Director of NIST to fulfill his/her responsibilities under the National Construction Safety Team Act, P.L. 107-231.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

N/A

**21. Remarks**

This Committee functions solely as an advisory body, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. One face-to-face meeting was held in FY 2018 on August 30, 2018. The report that will be produced as a result of this meeting will be submitted to Congress on January 1, 2019. The estimated annual cost of the committee is \$50,000 per year, the actual cost for FY18 came in at \$49,243 due to the cost of employee labor, Committee member travel, and meeting venue expenses. The FY19 cost is estimated at \$45,980 due to less anticipated employee labor.

**Designated Federal Officer**

Howard Harary Designated Federal Officer

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Corotis, Ross	09/30/2017	09/30/2020	Professor, University of Colorado Boulder	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Croce, Paul	10/12/2011	10/12/2017	Retired VP & Manager of Research, FM Global	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
DesRoches, Reginald	09/30/2017	09/30/2020	Dean, Rice University School of Engineering	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Harris, James	08/03/2015	07/31/2020	President, J.R. Harris & Company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Holmes, William	09/30/2017	09/30/2020	Senior Consultant, Rutherford + Chekene	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Isenberg, Jeremy	10/12/2011	10/12/2017	Retired Senior Principal Structural Engineer, AECOM	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Klein, Gary	07/31/2017	07/31/2020	Executive Vice President and Senior Principal, WJE Associates	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Quiter, James	10/12/2011	10/12/2017	Registered Professional Engineer & Principal, Arup	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sutton, Jeannette	07/31/2017	07/31/2020	Assistant Professor, Stanford University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 9**

**Narrative Description**

The National Construction Safety Team Act (P.L. 107-231) was signed into law by the President on October 1, 2002. The Act authorizes the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish National Construction Safety Teams (NCST) for deployment after events causing the failure of a building or class of buildings that has resulted in substantial loss of life or that posed the potential for substantial loss of life. The

Act directs NIST to establish a Federal Advisory Committee to advise the Director on carrying out this Act and to review the procedures developed under Section 2(c)(1) of the Act and the reports issued under Section 8 of the Act. The National Construction Safety Team Advisory Committee is composed of individuals who are experts in their respective fields. The committee advises the NIST Director and NCST teams on the conduct of investigations, reviews and provides advice on the technical approaches used in investigations, reviews and provides advice on findings, conclusions and recommendations resulting from NCST investigations, and reviews and provides comments on written investigation reports. The NCST Advisory Committee provides an outside perspective to NCST investigations that lends credibility to the resulting findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

## **Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

25

## **Number of Recommendations Comments**

In the NCSTAC's most recent report to Congress (submitted December 20th 2017) they made three new recommendations to NIST. Below is a brief summary of the recommendations. 1. NIST should conduct additional analysis regarding the presence or absence of communicator strategies to reach populations at risk, including the mechanisms and technology to help decision making about protective actions such as evacuation and sheltering. 2. NIST should spend more effort looking at the cost and benefit of implementing their recommendations. 3. The Committee recognizes and applauds the activities of NIST social and behavioral scientists to develop technical and scientific knowledge about risk. This is currently being translated into hazard maps and damage indicators. The Committee recommends that NIST continue the effort, with consistent attention given to portraying such information in appropriate scientific terms as well as terms that can be understood by community officials and the general public. This will help reach and affect the decision making of vulnerable populations.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

68%

## **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

NIST implemented the consensus advice received from the NCST Advisory Committee in finalizing the issues described above and preparing the recommendations for changes to codes, standards, and practices documented in the final report. Of the 25 formal recommendations made over the life of the Committee 17 have been fully implemented, 6 have been partially implemented, and 2 recommendations were declined.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

24%

## **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

The six recommendations NIST has partially implemented were either more costly and intrusive than necessary to collect research data, not feasible, are in the process of being implemented, or are outside of NIST's mission. Therefore NIST implemented a part or parts of the recommendation.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

NIST provides feedback directly to the Advisory Committee during its meetings, either face-to-face, via teleconference or web conferencing.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other



**Access Comments**

All annual Committee reports to Congress are posted on the Committee's web site at <http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/ncst/>