

OBOA Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee



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OBOA Mutual Aid Comparison Guide - BESA v. BSE SWAG

The OBOA Disaster Preparedness and Response committee has reviewed two building safety related mutual aid agreements, that are readily available for building departments in Oregon to become party to. To help provide members with a general overview of each agreement and to highlight what support and resources can be made available when joining an agreement, the committee has put together a comparison table that outline each of the agreements.

Feature	BESA Agreement	BSE SWAG (Stranded Worker)
Purpose	Facilitates resource sharing between building departments for building official, plan review, and inspection services.	Share qualified building safety evaluators (BSE) and other building-related staff during emergencies.
Scope	Voluntary, multilateral mutual aid agreement for building departments.	Voluntary intergovernmental agreement for building-related staff for emergency response personnel.
Participants	Building departments in Oregon.	Counties, cities, local agencies, regional governments, and special districts in the RDPO (i.e., Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington counties in OR; and Clark County in WA); as well as other RDPO-adjacent OR counties.
Services Provided	Plan review, inspection, and interim building official services.	Building safety evaluations, administrative support for building safety evaluations and Department Operations Center (DOC) operations.
Compensation	Paid based on a percentage of permit fees or an hourly rate.	Costs billed after the first 12 hours. Costs shall be consistent with Responding Agency's personnel union contracts, if any.

[We invite all OBOA members to learn more about this or another OBOA committee.](#)

[Please consider joining our efforts. This is a great opportunity to connect with peers and colleagues!](#)

Networking with like-minded professionals can greatly enhance your career and be personally rewarding. Please feel free to reach out to the committee chair directly or email Vicky at OBOA (info@oregonbuildingofficials.com) for meeting and other details.