



## Strengthen unreinforced masonry walls

### Why

- ▶ Prevents building damage and possible collapse.

### How

- ▶ A parapet is a short wall or heaving railing around the edge of a roof, balcony, terrace, or stair.
- ▶ Unreinforced masonry is vulnerable to earthquake damage, especially at parapet walls.

- ▶ Post-earthquake analysis finds that damage starting at an unanchored parapet wall can lead to the loss of the wall below.

- ▶ Strengthen all unreinforced masonry walls by bolting the walls to a new interior steel frame or adding reinforcement.

### How to Identify

- ▶ Look for added steel braces, anchor bolts, steel plates, shotcrete overlays, visible steel

reinforcement, or reinforcing patterns plates to identify whether unreinforced masonry walls are retrofitted for earthquakes.

- ▶ An experienced, licensed retrofit contractor or engineer can assess conditions and recommend improvements.
- ▶ Check for retrofit records, inspection reports, and permits.