

General Emergency and Disaster Preparations

1. Safeguard your home. Check for potential hazards.
 - a. Bolt or strap down top-heavy objects, such as bookshelves, china closets, water heaters and gas appliances, to prevent them from tipping over.
 - b. Check electrical connections and gas pipes for faulty joints and connections.
 - c. Place heavy objects on lower shelves.
 - d. Store bottled goods, glass, vases, china, and other breakables in lower or closed cabinets or drawers.
 - e. Place flammable, explosive, toxic, and corrosive materials in lower or closed cabinets or drawers and apart from each other.
 - f. Properly store and label flammable, combustible, explosive, corrosive, and hazardous materials.
 - g. Keep matches & lighters out of reach of children and away from flammable materials.
 - h. Be sure your home is bolted or anchored firmly to its foundation and structurally safe.
 - i. Keep properly rated and tagged fire extinguishers on hand. Along with your family - learn how and when to use them properly.
 - j. Store copies of important documents, such as insurance policies, deeds, property records, and birth certificates in a safe place away from your home. Store originals in a fireproof/waterproof box or safe.
 - k. Store essential and unreplaceable items in waterproof unbreakable containers.
 - l. Remove hazardous objects (i.e. mirrors, bookshelves, heavy pots, hanging plants, etc.) from sleeping areas, or just move your bed.
 - m. Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your house and natural or propane gas detectors near your furnace and hot water heater or boiler, and other gas appliances
2. Implement preventive safety measures for you and your family members.
 - a. Become CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) trained.
 - b. Know where, when, and how to shut off the gas or propane, electricity, and water at main switches and valves. Teach all responsible family members how and when to do this properly. (see "Appendix B").
 - b. Work out a relocation plan detailing how you will get back together if you are separated during an emergency or disaster. Include a family evacuation plan from the residence, from the neighborhood, and/or from the county.
 - 1) Discuss with your family what each person will do in case of an emergency or disaster. Be sure everyone has an assignment.
 - 2) Remember this plan should be flexible regarding time and location of each individual during any time of the day, week, or year. Take in to consideration weather problems.
 - 3) Hold occasional drills so that your family knows what to do during and after an emergency or disaster.
 - 4) Find out what to do and where to go in the case of an evacuation of your community. Learn the shortest and safest routes from your home, work, church, etc. to possible evacuations areas or centers. Take into account that you may not be able to travel in vehicles and may need to travel on foot or bicycle.
 - c. Have a complete one year minimum home storage including water, food, sanitation, medical, and fuel.
 - d. Have a 72-hour kit in an easily accessible place for every member of the home.
 - e. Keep a flashlight with fresh batteries and/or light-stick, "jump-in" clothes (a robe, sweats, or some other kind of quick put on clothes), an extra pair of shoes and prescription glasses (if you use either glasses or contacts) by your bed.
 - f. Put together a complete first aid kit and have every responsible person in your family learn how to use its contents. (see "Appendix E")
 - g. Learn basic first aid and CPR.
 - h. Find out who your block captains are and what your neighborhood emergency and disaster response procedures are.
 - i. Have an out-of-state contact telephone number that everyone can call to check-in with. It is usually easier during a disaster to call out-of-state than call within the disaster area. Remember just check-in do not tie up the phones with lengthy conversations.

General Post Emergency and Disaster Response

1. Check for injuries and administer whatever first aid you can. Do not try to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further serious injury.
2. Families should gather in a safe, pre-designated area, to assess the physical and emotional needs of each family member.
3. As soon as possible contact your block captain, either by phone (if working) or by going to the block captain's home in person. Report on the property, physical, and medical conditions of yourself and/or family, whether they are okay, hurt mildly, needing immediate first aid, dead, or missing. Before leaving your home hang the appropriate 8½" x 11" card, flag, or ribbon on your home, as close to the front door as possible or wherever your front door used to be (depending on the condition of your home):
 - Green - all is well
 - Yellow - need help but not immediate or life threatening
 - Red - need immediate help or critical care is needed
 - Black - there is a deceased person(s) here
 - White - there is no one home (use discretionary caution about using this one)
 - White (Quarantine) - in the event of self quarantine(The black should be used in conjunction with any of the other three colors.)
4. After you have reported, to your block captain, all able bodied men and women over the age of 12 not caring for small children, hurt household members, elderly, or disabled should report to the EOC (emergency operations center) for area wide assignments. An EOC should be set up with a first aid station to treat non-critical first aid emergencies and other emergency needs.
5. If you have a critical or life-threatening injury report to your block captain and then go directly to the local hospital (if available) or a critical care center in your area for treatment.
6. If your area is required to evacuate, make sure that all living household members evacuate together with members of your block and possibly neighborhood.
7. If your situation is dangerous waiting for family members or block members, leave without them but leave a note where you are going.
8. Turn on a radio or television to get the latest official information from local authorities and the locations of emergency shelters and Red Cross shelters.
9. If you are in a safe location, stay there until authorities say it is okay to leave.
10. If you have evacuated the community, do not return until authorities say it is okay to return.
11. Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities request volunteers. Do not go sightseeing.
12. Drive only when necessary. Roads and bridges may have been weakened and may collapse under the weight of a vehicle.
13. Check your utilities for damages. (see "Appendix B")
 - a. If you smell gas, turn it off at the main valve. Open all windows and doors until the smell is gone. Immediately extinguish all flames or fires and leave the building.
 - b. If you see or suspect that the electricity is shorting out or damaged, turn it off at the main switch or circuit breaker. Do not touch downed power-lines or broken appliances.
 - c. If water pipes are broken, turn the water off at the main valve.
 - d. Before using the toilets, check sewage lines to ensure they are intact.
14. If you need water and do not have any emergency water in your home storage, or it has been destroyed, see the "Emergency Water Procurement" section of this booklet.
15. Begin clean up of affected areas including dangerous breaks and spills cautiously:
 - a. Cover broken glass to prevent injury to other people.
 - b. Take all wet wood furniture outside to dry, but do not place it in direct sunlight.
16. Do not use the telephone unless it is an emergency. It is very easy to jam the telephone lines when everyone is using them at the same time. Check to make sure all of the telephones are hung up.
17. If you are in a tall building, do not use the elevators, even if they seem to be working. Use the stairwells.
18. Do not use fireplaces until the flue or chimney is checked that it is undamaged.
19. Leave buildings that have moderate or heavy damage until they are made safe.

Earthquakes

Facts about Earthquakes

1. Earthquakes are classified as great, major, moderate, or small, based on the intensity that they are registered on the "Richter Scale".
2. Earthquake classifications based on the Richter scale are shown in magnitudes below.

classifications	Richter Scale
small	5.0 - 5.9
moderate	6.0 - 6.9
major	7.0 - 7.9
great	8.0 - 8.9

3. After earthquakes more injuries and deaths are caused by panic, falling objects, landslides, fires, or floods than by the actual earthquake.
4. Earthquakes usually have aftershocks, or small tremors, which are often just as dangerous as the initial earthquake.
5. Earthquakes usually rarely last more than a few seconds.
6. Earthquakes can cause tidal waves in coastal areas.

What to do PREPARE FOR an Earthquake

1. Follow procedures for "General Emergency and Disaster Preparations" (see page 1).

What to do DURING an Earthquake

1. *Remain calm!* Think through the consequences of all your actions.
2. **Stop, drop, cover, and hold** on to something sturdy, where you are.
3. If you are indoors. . .
 - a. stay indoors.
 - b. take cover under a heavy desk, table, bench, archway, alongside a sturdy wall or in a narrow hallway.
 - c. stay away from and out of windows and all other forms of glass, elevators, stairwells, and doorways with doors, (doors can swing closed, causing injuries).
4. If you are outdoors. . .
 - a. stay outdoors.
 - b. move away from buildings, roofs with clay tiles, antennas, or satellite dishes, large trees, signs, power lines, and any other utility wires or buildings on stilts.
5. If you are in a crowded place. . .
 - a. stay away from overhead walkways and do not rush for a doorway.
 - b. take cover and move away from display shelves holding objects that can fall.
6. If you are in a high-rise building. . .
 - a. get under a sturdy desk or table away from windows and outside walls.
 - b. stay in the building on the same floor. An evacuation may not be necessary.
 - c. be aware that the electricity may go out and that the sprinkler systems and fire alarms may go on.

7. If you are in a moving vehicle. . .
 - a. stop as quickly and safely as possible, and stay in your vehicle.
 - b. try not to stop near power-lines, bridges, tall fences, or gas stations.
 - c. watch for road and bridge damage before proceeding.
8. Hold on to small children and pets. They scare easily and may try to run into dangerous areas or situations.
9. Do not use any open flame during or immediately after an earthquake in case there is a gas leak.

What to do AFTER an Earthquake

1. Prepare for aftershocks.
2. Follow procedures for "General Post Emergency and Disaster Response" (see page 2).

EARTHQUAKE SHAKING HAZARD MAP

