

Earthquake Checklist

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently and without warning. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time in addition to advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake. Develop an emergency communication plan. For more info: www.fema.gov

To In Do Place Help Prevent Fires

- Install working smoke detectors on every level of the home and in all sleeping areas.
- Install fire extinguishers in high-risk areas of the home, including kitchen, basement, and garage.
- Secure water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor. Obtain a wrench that fits the gas and water valves.
- Store gasoline, pesticides, flammable products and other hazardous materials in appropriate containers, securely locked in closed cabinets, and away from any possible source of ignition.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections, which are potential fire risks.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.

Living Areas in the Home

- Fasten and secure bookcases, shelves, and other top-heavy furniture with L-Brackets.
- Secure TVs and electronics so they cannot fall off shelves.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Place large heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Position beds away from windows and top-heavy furniture.
- Repair any cracks in ceilings/foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Remove or lock refrigerator rollers.

Water, Food, Medical and Important Items that NEED to be Stored

- Store enough drinking water for a minimum for 3 days.
- Store enough dry and canned food for a minimum of 3 days.
- Attend first aid and CPR courses and obtain a first aid book and kit.
- Store extra essential medications, eyeglasses, and sturdy shoes.
- Store appropriate supplies for babies, senior citizens, and the disabled.
- Working flashlight and extra batteries.
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- Non-electric can opener.
- Blankets and extra clothing.
- Cash and credit cards.

Identify safe places in the Home and Outdoors

- Under sturdy furniture such as heavy desk/table or against an inside wall.
- Away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- Keep away from buildings, trees, telephone/electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways.

Be Prepared!

- Make sure all family members know how to respond after an earthquake.
- Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 for the police and fire departments and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.

