

Beverly Hills Fire Department Presents: Earthquake Preparedness

FACTS:

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates the risk of an earthquake of a magnitude 7.0 or greater in Southern California is 60 percent over the next 30 years and 10 percent within the next 5 years.

By learning the potential hazards of earthquakes and by taking certain preparedness measures, you can survive a major earthquake and minimize dangerous and damaging impact. Much can be done **NOW** before the next great earthquake strikes Southern California.

Local government officials have been given the responsibility by State and Federal law to "ensure the safety and welfare of their citizens at all times." However, during an overwhelming disastrous event such as a major earthquake, it would be far beyond the capabilities of any local government to respond to all the needs of the community. That is why disaster planners have warned us to be prepared to be "on your own for **at least the first 72 hours** after an earthquake.



Prepare Your Home:

- Learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity. Repair any lines which are defective.
- Keep breakables or heavy objects on bottom shelves.
- Secure all heavy furniture that could topple, such bookcases, china cabinets or wall unit.
- Fasten shelves securely and brace overhead light fixtures.
- Strap water heater to wall studs.
- Hang mirrors and pictures away from bed.



Prepare Yourself:

- Provide emergency water for at least 3 days (store 1 gal of water per person for each day, replace emergency water every six months.)
- Provide a supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- Have an extra change of cloth, shoes, glasses and rain gear.
- Keep a list of family physicians and phone numbers.
- Keep a battery powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- Keep an extra set of car keys.
- Have sleeping bags and blankets available.
- Have a first aid kit handy along with any prescription drugs.
- Have available any special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- Learn first aid and CPR.



Know What to Do When the Shaking Begins:

- If indoors stay inside and Drop, Cover and Hold On, until shaking stops and you know it's safe to exit.
- If in a high-rise building, Stay away from windows.
- If driving, slow down and pull your car to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses and underpasses. Stay in your car until shaking stops and watch out for power lines.
- If you are outdoors, get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls and power lines.

Know What to Do After the Shaking Stops:

- Check yourself and others for injuries. Protect yourself from further danger by putting on long pants, a long sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves.
- Check for gas and water leaks or broken electrical wiring. If there is damage, turn utility off at the source.
- Inspect you home for damage. Look for cracks and structural damage, including roof, chimneys and foundation.
- Use the telephone only to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Listen to the radio for instructions.
- Expect aftershocks. Each time you feel one, Drop, Cover and Hold On!