



CITY OF SAUSALITO

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PROGRAM

“Preparing and Protecting our Community”

PREPARING FOR EARTHQUAKES

Surviving an earthquake is not luck or happenstance. You can survive an earthquake and minimize the damage it causes by becoming aware of potential hazards and taking some basic earthquake preparedness measures.

The movement of the ground during an earthquake is seldom the actual cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from partial building collapse, falling objects and debris, such as toppling bookcases, ceiling plaster and light fixtures.

Since earthquakes strike without warning, it is important to prepare before they occur. The longer you put off preparing for earthquakes, the greater the risk. No one knows when earthquakes which are going to cause great damage are going to occur so it is better to assume that they are coming sooner than later. At least then, you'll be prepared.

The checklist and guidelines provided to you here are basic ground rules for survival during an earthquake.

Before the Quake

Develop a family earthquake plan. Prepare yourself, your family and your home by completing the activities on this checklist:

- Decide how and where your family will reunite if separated.
- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative that separated family members can call after the quake to report their whereabouts and condition.
- Know the safe spots in each room; under sturdy tables, desks, or against inside walls. Know the danger spots: windows, mirrors, hanging objects, fireplaces and tall, unsecured furniture.
- Conduct practice drills. Physically place yourself in safe locations.
- Learn first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitations) from your local Red Cross Chapter or other community organization.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers.
- Learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity in case the lines are damaged. (Safety note: Do not attempt to relight gas pilot. Call the utility company.)
- Check chimneys, roofs, walls, and foundations for stability. Make sure your house is bolted to its foundation.
- Secure water heater and appliances that could move enough to rupture utility lines.
- Keep breakables and heavy objects on bottom shelves.
- Secure heavy tall furniture that can topple, such as bookcases, china cabinets or wall units.
- Secure hanging plants and heavy picture frames or mirrors (especially over beds).
- Put latches on cabinet doors to keep them closed during shaking.



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- Keep flammable or hazardous liquids such as paints, pest sprays or cleaning products in cabinets or secured on lower shelves.
- Maintain emergency food, water and other supplies, including a flashlight, a portable battery-operated radio, extra batteries, medicines, first aid kit and clothing.

During the Quake

- If you are indoors, stay there. Get under a desk or table or stand in a corner.
- If you are outdoors, get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls and power lines.
- If you are driving, pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses and power lines. Stay inside until the shaking is over.
- If you are in a high-rise building, stay away from windows and outside walls. Get under a table. Do not use elevators.

After the Quake

- Check for injuries. Apply first aid. Do not move seriously injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger.
- Do not use the telephone immediately unless there is a serious injury or fire.
- Hunt for hazards.
- Check for gas and water leaks, broken electrical wiring or sewage lines. If there is damage, turn utility off at the source.
- Check building for cracks and damage, including roof, chimneys and foundation.
- Check food and water supplies. Emergency water may be obtained from water heaters, melted ice cubes, toilet tanks and canned vegetables.
- Turn on your portable radio for instructions and news reports. Cooperate fully with public safety officials.
- Do not use your vehicle unless there is an emergency. Keep the streets clear for emergency vehicles.