

Once the earthquake is over, then we will have to live with its aftermath--the risk of fire, the potential lack of utilities and basic services, and the certainty of aftershocks.

1.10.4.1 FIRE PREVENTION

Earthquakes cause fires. They break gas mains, causing fires, and break water mains, impeding the fighting of fires.

Some tips for reducing the risk:

- Brace your water heater to prevent gas leaks.
- Be sure your gas appliances have flexible attachments.
- Keep a wrench near the gas main and train family members who may be home alone how to use it.
- Shut off gas only if you smell gas or hear a leak.
- If you lose power, use flashlights instead of candles.
- The flame could cause an explosion if gas is leaking, or aftershocks could knock over the candle.
- Keep a fire extinguisher braced securely to the wall, and know how to use it.

1.10.4.2 WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Maintain personal earthquake bags. Keep them where they can be reached even if your building is badly damaged. Take them with you if you evacuate. These should include:

- Medications and medical consent forms for dependents
- Emergency cash
- Copies of vital documents such as insurance policies
- Spare eyeglasses and shoes
- Snack foods, high in water and sugar
- Working flashlights, radio, and extra batteries
- Lightsticks
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Comfort items such as games, crayons, writing materials, outgrown teddy-bears (children regress under stress)
- Electrical, water, transportation, and other vital systems can be disrupted for several days after a large earthquake.
- Emergency response agencies and hospitals could be overwhelmed and unable to provide you with immediate assistance.
- Be prepared to be on your own for 72 hours or more.

- Knowing first aid and having supplies will make life more comfortable and help you keep your sanity after the next earthquake.

Maintain a 72-hour to 1-week supply of the following items:

- Drinking water (minimum one gallon per person, per day)
- First aid kit and book
- Food that is nutritious and liked by family members
- Charcoal or gas grill for outdoor cooking
- Cooking utensils, including a manual can opener
- Extra food for pets, pet restraints
- Working flashlights with extra batteries and lightsticks
- Portable radio and extra batteries
- Plastic bags for tarps, waste, rain ponchos, and other uses
- Sturdy shoes and comfortable clothing

1.10.5 Recommended Resources

The following references provide additional information for earthquake mitigation and preparedness:

Many publications are available from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- Before, During, After, OES
- A Guide to Repairing and Strengthening Your Home Before the Next Earthquake, OES & FEMA
- Protecting Your Home and Business from Nonstructural Earthquake Damage, OES & FEMA
- An Ounce of Prevention: Strengthening Your Wood Frame House for Earthquake Safety, OES
- Tremor Troop: Earthquakes, A Teachers Package for K-6, produced by the National Science Teachers Association with support from FEMA

available from the American Red Cross:

- Are You Ready for An Earthquake?
- Your Family Disaster Plan
- Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit