

GETTING PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

EARTHQUAKES

Almost every part of our country has at least a minor risk for earthquake. Prepare yourself and your family now—before it happens.

- Have an earthquake survival kit on hand.



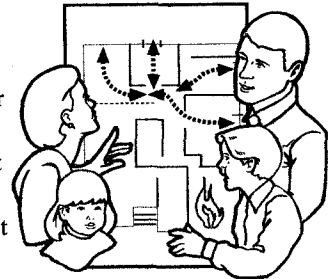
- All family members old enough should know how to turn off gas, water, and electricity.
- Pick at least one “safe spot” in each room of your home. This could be under a desk, table or a doorway.
- Work on a plan to get your family members back together. Travel may be hard after a major earthquake.
- Make sure heavy objects are attached to walls (bookshelves, wall units, cupboards, etc.).
- Don’t place heavy objects over beds.

Gather your entire family together and prepare a home fire escape plan.

FIRES

- Discuss the escape plan with each family member.
- Draw a floor plan of your house or apartment and find *two ways out* of each room.
- Choose a meeting place *outside* and away from the house for everyone to meet, after they escape the fire.

- Make sure everyone in your family knows the telephone number for the fire department.
- Practice getting out of the house by each of your escape routes. Start with everyone in their beds.
- Make sure you have at least one smoke detector on each level of your home or apartment. Test your smoke detector every month to be sure it is working.



Your family should be prepared if the electric power goes out during a storm. Gather together an emergency kit and keep it in a drawer or cupboard. It should contain the following items:

- Flashlight
- Candles, holders and matches
- Battery-powered radio
- Non-electric can opener
- Windup or battery-operated clock
- Extra batteries



Other items to have on hand include:

- Paper plates and plastic utensils
- Extra blankets
- Dry firewood, kindling and paper

STORMS

Electric power lines may be knocked down by ice, wind, or falling trees. Never go near a downed power line! If a downed wire should fall on your car while you’re in it, it’s almost always safer to stay inside until help arrives.