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Earthquake - Before and During

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There will always be earthquakes in California. Scientists are working on a long range goal of earthquake prediction, but even if they succeed there will always be a need for citizen preparedness...and the ability of individuals to take care of themselves and their loved ones in time of emergency. Know the location of your nearest Fire and Police Station.

1. Before an earthquake happens, be prepared. Have basic emergency supplies on hand:

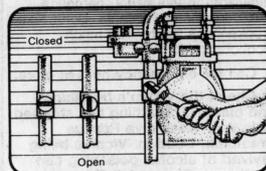
- A. A portable radio (with extra batteries).
- B. A few flashlights (with extra batteries).

Note: Batteries last longer if stored in a refrigerator.

- C. A first aid kit and handbook.
- D. Water (a few gallons for each family member).
- E. Food (canned foods, mechanical opener, required medications and powdered milk for at least one week's meals).
- F. Pipe wrenches and crescent wrenches (to be able to turn off gas and water).
- G. Know where your gas, electric and water main shutoffs are. If in doubt, ask your water, power, and gas companies.
- H. Have some alternate source for cooking which can be used outdoors (i.e., barbecue, charcoal, starter fluid, matches—the latter two items stored separately and out of the reach of children).
- I. A small bottle of chlorine bleach for use in disinfecting water.
- J. Have a plan to reunite your family since travel may be difficult or even restricted after a major earthquake.

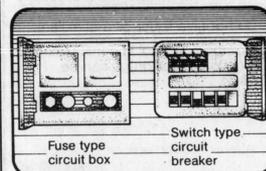
2. How to shut off gas: (Do so only if you suspect a gas leak or can smell escaping gas.)

- A. The main shut-off valve is located next to your meter on the inlet pipe.
- B. Use a wrench and give it a quarter turn in either direction so that it runs cross wise on the pipe. The line is now closed.



3. How to shut off electricity:

- A. Look closely at your circuit breaker box or fuse-type box.
- B. Be certain that you can turn off the electricity in an emergency.



4. During an earthquake, keep calm. Panic kills.

- A. If you are indoors, stay there. Get under a desk, table or in a doorway. Stay clear of windows. Greatest hazards from falling objects may be outdoors—Stay inside!
- B. If you are outside—Get into the open, away from buildings and power lines.
- C. If you are driving a car—Stop the car, but stay inside. Do not stop on or under a bridge. Try to get your car as far out of the normal traffic pattern as possible. Do not stop under trees, lightposts or signs.
- D. If you are in a mountainous area, be alert for falling rock or other debris which could be loosened as a result of the quake.



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Earthquake - After

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5. After a major earthquake:

- A. Check For Injuries—If anyone has stopped breathing, give mouth to mouth Rescue Breathing. • Stop any bleeding injury by applying direct pressure over the site of the wound. • Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. • Cover injured persons with blankets to keep them warm. Be reassuring and calm. • Wear shoes in all areas near debris and broken glass. • Immediately clean up any spilled medicines, drugs or other potentially harmful materials (e.g. bleaches, lye, gasoline, or other petroleum products).
- B. Check For Safety—Check your home for fire or fire hazards. • Check utility lines and appliances for damage. • Shut off main gas valve if leak is suspected or identified (by smell of gas). Do not search for a leak with a match. Do not turn on gas again. You will be safer if you let the gas company restore service. • Shut off electrical power at the control box if there is any damage to your house wiring. • Do not use lighters or open flame appliances until you are certain that no gas leak exists. • Do not operate electrical switches or appliances if gas leaks are suspected. Sparks can ignite gas from broken lines. • Do not touch downed lines, or objects touched by downed power lines, or electrical wiring of any kind. • Check your chimney for cracks and damage. Approach chimneys with caution. They may topple. Caution: Use of a damaged chimney invites fire. When in doubt, don't use it. • Check closets and cupboards. Open doors cautiously. Beware of falling objects tumbling off shelves.

- C. Check Your Food Supply—Do not eat or drink anything from open containers near shattered glass. If power is off, check your freezer and plan meals to use up foods that will spoil quickly.
- D. Check your water supply—If water is off, emergency water supplies may be all around you in...water heaters...toilet tanks...melted ice cubes...canned vegetables. Do not eat or drink anything from open containers near shattered glass.

Disinfection of Water

Before attempting disinfection, first strain water through a clean cloth or handkerchief to remove any sediment, floating matter or glass.

Water may be disinfected with 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution (household chlorine bleach). Do not use solutions in which there are active ingredients other than hypochlorite. Use the following proportions:

Clear water	
One quart	2 drops
One gallon	8 drops
Five gallons	½ teaspoon
Cloudy water	
One quart	4 drops
One gallon	16 drops
Five gallons	1 teaspoon

Mix water and hypochlorite thoroughly by stirring or shaking in a container. Let stand for 30 minutes before using. A slight chlorine odor should be detectable in the water; if not, repeat the dosage and let stand for an additional 15 minutes before using.

Note: Water may be purified by bringing it to a rapid boil.

6. Cooperate with Public Safety efforts.

- A. Do not use your telephone except to report medical, fire or violent crime emergencies.
- B. Turn on your portable radio for information and damage reports.
- C. Do not go sightseeing afterwards, especially in beach and waterfront areas where seismic waves could strike.
- D. Keep streets clear for emergency vehicles.
- E. Be prepared for aftershocks. Most of these are smaller than the main quake, but some may be large enough to do additional damage.
- F. Cooperate with Public Safety Officials. Don't go into damaged areas unless your help is requested.
- G. Informed and cooperative citizens can help minimize damage and injury.