

Disaster Preparedness

INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, AND HOME PLANNING GUIDE

If a major earthquake or other disaster struck in your area today, you might be without direct assistance for at least 72 hours. Are you prepared to be self-sufficient? Is your family?

Families can and do cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility.

Individual and Family Preparedness:

- Know the safe areas in each room (under sturdy tables, desks, or against inside walls).
- Know the danger spots in each room (windows, mirrors, hanging objects, fireplaces, and tall furniture).
- Keep a list of emergency telephone numbers.
- Pick two places to meet – right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire; and outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home or are asked to leave your neighborhood.
- Choose an out-of-state relative or friend whom family members can call to report their whereabouts and condition.

Home Preparedness:

- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms.
- Know how to use your fire extinguisher and show family members where extinguishers are kept.
- Teach all responsible family members how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches or valves.
- Secure your water heater and any appliances that could move enough to rupture utility lines.
- Plan how to take care of your animals.
- Discuss what to do if authorities ask you to evacuate.
- Be familiar with escape routes.

Additional Resources:

- [Disaster Preparedness Handbook](#)

[Tsunami Evacuation Routes](#)