

Ready ✓ Burbank



FAMILY EARTHQUAKE PLAN

KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT

- **SAFEST PLACE IN THE HOME:** During an earthquake, stay away from heavy furniture, appliances, large panes of glass, shelves holding heavy objects, and masonry veneer (such as the fireplace). These items tend to fall or break and can injure you. Usually, a hallway is one of the safest places if it is not crowded with objects. Kitchens and garages tend to be the most dangerous. Also, know the safest place in each room. It will be difficult to move from one place to another during a severe earthquake.
- **EXITS AND ALTERNATIVE EXITS:** Always know all the possible ways to exit your house and work place in emergency situations. Try to discover exits that would only be available to you in an emergency.
- **LOCATION OF SHUTOFF VALVES:** Know the location of the shutoff valves for water, gas, and electricity. Learn how to operate the valves. If you are not sure, contact your utility company.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- **ELDERLY, DISABLED, OR PERSONS UNDER MEDICATION:** These people may have difficulty moving around after an earthquake. Plan to have someone help them to evacuate if necessary. Also, they may need special foods or medication. Be sure to store several days' supply of these special provisions.
- **PERSONS WHO DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH:** People who cannot speak English often rely on their family or friends for information. If they are separated during an earthquake, they may need help. Prepare emergency information cards, written in English, indicating identification, address, and special needs.
- **PETS:** After an earthquake, you should be concerned with your own safety before taking care of your pets. Storing extra food and water for pets is always a good idea. Keep them in a secure place at home after an earthquake. If you are evacuated, they will not be allowed at the emergency shelter.

PLAN TO MEET

- **PLAN TO REUNITE:** Make a plan on where and how to unite family members. Choose a person outside the immediate area to contact if family members are separated. Long distance phone service will probably be restored sooner than local service. Remember, don't use the phone immediately after an earthquake, and make local calls only for emergencies.
- **PLAN RESPONSIBILITIES:** There will be many things to take care of after an earthquake. Make a plan with your family, friends, and neighbors assigning specific responsibilities to each person. Remember that it may be difficult to get around after an earthquake, so each person's tasks should be related to where they may be.
- **DEVELOP A MESSAGE DROP:** You need to identify a secure location outside your home where family members can leave messages for each other. This way, if you're separated and unable to remain in your home, your family will know where to go to find you. You don't want to publicize that you are not at home. That is why this location should be secure and discrete (i.e. under a paving stone, inside a tin can, in the back yard, etc.)

