

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

CHECK FOR HAZARDS AT HOME

- **Fasten shelves securely to walls**
- **Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves**
- **Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass and china in low, closed cabinets with latches**
- **Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches and anywhere people sit**
- **Brace overhead light fixtures**
- **Secure water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor**
- **Store weed killer, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves**

IDENTIFY SAFE PLACES INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

- **Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table**
- **Against an inside wall**
- **Away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over**
- **In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways**

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

IF INDOORS

- **DROP** to the ground; take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture
- **STAY INSIDE UNTIL THE SHAKING STOPS** and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave
- Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on

IF OUTDOORS

- **STAY THERE**
- Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside building, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Most injuries/fatalities occur when people run outside of buildings only to be killed or injured by falling debris from collapsing walls

AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- **Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves**
- **Stay away from damaged areas.**
- **Help injured or trapped persons. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance such as infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help**
- **Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately**
- **Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals**
- **Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage.**
- **Inspect utilities.**
 - **Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn the gas off for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional**
 - **Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician**
 - **Check for sewage and water line damage. If you suspect sewage line are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap**