Seven Steps That May Save Your Life

Preparation is the key to surviving a disaster. Start today by looking at these seven steps. Then talk to your family about what you have learned. Be safe—reduce losses—recover quickly.

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE OR TSUNAMI—PREPARE
DURING THE EARTHQUAKE—PROTECT
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE—RECOVER

THIRTY SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME EARTHQUAKE SAFE

Connect the actions with their locations in the house below.

STEP 1—IDENTIFY HAZARDS
1. Know whether you live, work or play in a tsunami hazard zone.
2. Hang plants in lightweight pots with closed hooks, well secured to a joist or stud and far away from windows.
3. Store fire extinguisher (type ABC) in easily accessible location.
4. Install strong latches on kitchen cabinets.
5. Use flexible connections where gas lines meet appliances.
6. Remove or lock refrigerator wheels, secure to stud.
7. Keep several flashlights in easily accessible places around the house.
8. Secure valuable electronics items such as computers and televisions.
9. Keep breakables in low or secure cabinets with latches.
10. Move heavy plants and other large items to floor or low shelves.
11. Hang mirrors and pictures on closed hooks.
12. Secure free-standing woodstove or fireplace insert.
13. Keep heavy unstable objects away from doors and exit routes.
14. Place bed away from windows or items that may fall.
15. Secure brick chimneys and other small valuables with museum putty.
16. Brace overhead light fixtures.
17. Place only light weight/soft items over bed.
18. Secure top-heavy furniture to studs.
19. Keep wrench or turn-off tool in water-proof wrap near gas meter.
20. Know the location of your main electrical switch (floor box or circuit breaker).
21. Secure water heater with metal strips attached to studs.
22. Trim hazardous tree limbs.

STEP 2—CREATE A PLAN
23. Have your emergency plan accessible and discuss with all family members.

STEP 3—PREPARE DISASTER KITS
24. Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio with the Public Alert feature to notify you of tornadoes and other hazards.
25. Keep an emergency backpack with copies of important documents near the door to grab and go.
26. Keep flashlight, slippers and gloves next to beds.
27. Keep gas tank at least half full.
28. Store emergency food and water supplies in a dry accessible area. Include first aid kit, extra cash, portable radios, extra batteries, medications and other necessary supplies.

STEP 4—STRENGTHEN YOUR HOME
29. Use anchor bolts every 4 to 6 feet to secure home to foundation.
30. Reinforce brick chimneys.

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