

Are you prepared for an earthquake?

Here are some tips to consider about earthquake preparedness:

Water Storage

Q: Why should your family store water?

A: You and your family can survive for several days without food, but only for a short time without water. Store a two-weeks supply of water for each member of your family. Also be sure to include enough water for any pets you have.

Q: How much water is necessary?

A: In moderate weather a normally active person requires a minimum of 1/2 gallon of water per day for drinking and food preparation. *Note: Additional water will be required for bathing, brushing teeth and dishwashing.*

Q: Where can water be found in an emergency?

A: Water can be taken from ice cubes, hot water tank, toilet tank (not toilet bowl). Do not use water from the toilet tank to drink if chemical disinfectant or purifier has been added to the water. Be sure to turn off gas or electricity to tank before draining off water for emergency use.

Q: How long will water last?

A: Commercially bottled water stored in 5-gallon, heavy plastic containers are well sealed and will last for an extended period of time. The lightweight 1 and 2.5 gallon containers are less expensive and easily available but are not as durable and may leak after one year.

Water Tips

- When bottled water is stored in plastic container over long periods of time or at elevated temperatures it may develop some plastic taste and odor. However, the water will remain bacteriologically safe and chemically stable indefinitely, provided the container remains unopened.
- To increase shelf life of the water stored in translucent plastic bottles, store in dark area away from light.
- Check water supply every 3 months for leakage, evaporation, and outside contamination, and replace as needed.
- To purify drinking water use any of the following methods:
 - Boil for 5 - 10 minutes
 - Add 10 drops of household bleach per gallon, mix and let stand for 30 minutes. A slight smell or taste of chlorine indicates water is good to drink.
 - Use purification tablets, follow instructions

Food Storage

Here is a list of food items you can store

Canned Protein:

- salmon
- sardines
- tuna
- ham
- chicken
- beef
- lunch meat

Canned Vegetables:

- beets
- carrots
- peas
- green beans
- spinach
- corn
- sweet potatoes

Canned Fruits:

- pineapple
- apricots
- peaches
- apple sauce
- fruit cocktail

Dried Fruits, Nuts & Seeds:

- raisins
- peanuts
- prunes
- assorted nuts
- sunflower seeds

Also Include:

- tea bags
- instant tea
- coffee
- peanut butter
- fruit juices
- soups
- pet food
- hard candy
- vitamins
- beef jerky
- flavored beverage powders
- cheese spread
- hi-protein bars
- cocoa

Do you have an adequate first-aid kit?

Your first-aid kit should include the same kind of supplies that professionals use:

- One roll of adhesive tape one-half inch to 1 inch wide and 3 to 5 yards long.
- Twelve 2-by-2-inch sterile gauze pads.
- Six 4-by-4-inch sterile gauze pads.
- Two gauze roll bandages, 2 inches by 5 yards.
- 16 to 24 adhesive bandages.
- Tweezers.
- Scissors.
- Two large sterile dressings, about 8 inches by 7 1/2 inches.
- Safety pins.
- Six packaged antiseptic swabs
- Six eye pads.
- Antiseptic spray or ointment.
- A blanket.
- A good first-aid book, such as *Standard First Aid & Safety* by the American Red Cross.

What to do in the event the electricity is off ?

Be sure to do the following:

1. Use perishable foods and foods from the refrigerator first.
2. Use foods from the freezer.
3. Use non-perishable foods last

**City of Irvine
Emergency Management Section
(949) 724-7148**