



Santa Ynez Recreational Center

EARTHQUAKE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAQ

What is the most essential item to have in case of a disaster?

Water is critical. You should have at least 1 gallon per person for 3 days. 1 week is recommended.

Can I drink my pool water? Saline pool water?

No. The high level of minerals and acids can cause diarrhea. This will dehydrate you.

How long can you store water? Bottles? Jugs?

1 and 2-gallon containers have a 6 month to 1 year shelf life. Screw top bottles and 5-gallon containers have a 2-year shelf life.

How do I store water properly?

Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Never use a container that has held toxic substances or dairy products. Seal water containers tightly, label them with the storage date, and store in a cool, dark place. Rotate water every six months. You can also purchase water storage containers which use your tap water with a water preserving chemical. When kept tightly sealed, water can be stored up to 5 years.

Can I drink water from my toilet?

Yes, be sure to drink from the toilet tank not the toilet bowl.

Can I drink water from my water heater?

Yes, often times water heaters will hold 40 to 60 gallons and that water is safe to drink. Be careful of hot water.

What are the most important items to have in your kit?

The 10 essentials are as follows:

- Water
- Food
- Cash & Important Documents
- Clothes
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Medicine
- Radio
- Toiletries
- Tools

How long can canned food be stored?

Up to 2 years. Pop-tops last about 6 months.



Santa Ynez Recreational Center

EARTHQUAKE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAQ

How much food and water should I store?

Store enough for a minimum of 3 days to 1 week. More is better.

Where is the best place to store your emergency supplies?

Supplies should be stored in a variety of places because you'll never know where you'll be. A "Grab n' Go Kit" should be placed near the front door or in a coat closet near the front door. The garage or an outdoor storage shed are other possible locations for supplies. Make an under the bed kit to keep you safe if in the bedroom.

Should I store money?

Have cash and coins stored in small denominations.

If we have to evacuate – what are the most important documents I should have?

The documents that you should make sure to have with you when you evacuate are as follows:

- Social Security Card
- Drivers License
- Passport
- Medical Records
- Insurance Information

Where is the safest place to be during an earthquake?

When the ground starts shaking, Drop, Cover and Hold On. Drop to the ground, take cover under a sturdy surface (such as a table or desk) and hold on to whatever you ducked under. If you are asleep when the earthquake occurs, drop to the ground next to your bed. If you lay next to but not under your bed with your pillow over your head, you are less likely to be badly injured from falling glass and objects.

What are the least safest places to be during an earthquake?

The least safest places to be in the event of an earthquake is anywhere that heavy objects can come falling down on top of you. If you are outside of a building, take cover inside so glass doesn't fall on you.

What do I do if I'm in a car and power line falls on me?

Stay in your car until help arrives. You may get electrocuted if you try to exit your vehicle.

Where should I store fire extinguishers?

You can store fire extinguishers in many different places, a few examples are: in the kitchen in case of a grease fire, upstairs in the bedroom closet or next to/under your bed in case you need to use the extinguisher to evacuate the premises, or in your office.



EARTHQUAKE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAQ

How can I get trained to use a fire extinguisher?

You can call your local fire department or CERT team and ask them if they have any classes to teach how to use a fire extinguisher.

What type / size fire extinguisher should I have?

It is usually recommended that you have a 2A:10BC fire extinguisher. However, there are all different size A:BC Extinguishers that will work just as effectively given the situation.

How much do generators cost? What is the best kind to get?

Generators can cost up to thousands of dollars, but you can get a 5,000 Watt generator for around \$700. Before purchasing a generator, first determine how much electricity you would like to generate. Remember that many appliances require 3 - 4 times their running wattage to start them.

What radio channel will have disaster information?

In the event of an emergency all radio station should switch over to emergency broadcasting for your area. The emergency broadcast radio stations in Los Angeles are KFWB 980AM and KNX 1070AM. These stations will broadcast at a much higher wattage than normal.

Where will my pets go in an emergency?

If you need to evacuate your home, emergency shelters will not be able to take in your pet, so you will need to make other arrangements in advance. Start first with friends or family who do not live in your immediate area, where it will be less likely they will be affected by the same disaster as you. It may be that you can make a reciprocal agreement to house their pet(s) if they must evacuate their home. Look into private kennels or training schools, which may be willing to enter an agreement with you prior to a disaster for a fee. And when you have to take your pet elsewhere, don't forget a leash and collar, food, bedding and perhaps a favorite toy.

What is the shelf life of batteries?

Batteries last for 2 - 3 years depending on how they are stored. You should always check your batteries to make sure they still work and that they are not corroded

When should I turn off my gas main and how do I do it?

If you smell or hear of a gas leak in your area through the media (over the radio or on an emergency TV) and are advised to shut your gas off then you should turn it off. To turn off your gas valve with a gas shut off tool you simply use the tool to turn the valve 1/4 of a turn into the off position. When you are ready to restore your gas service, call the gas company or a qualified plumber to turn it back on for you.

What are the best websites to obtain emergency preparedness information?

www.ready.gov, www.daretoprepare.org, or your city and state's website.



EARTHQUAKE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAQ

How can I get additional training for emergency situations?

You can contact your local CERT team and learn how to become involved. Or you can contact the American Red Cross and train in First Aid, CPR and Preparedness.