

	<p>The MTA will distribute a wallet-sized card to employees with instructions about steps to take following an earthquake. On the reverse, you can list the names and phone numbers of two out-of-state contacts.</p>
<p>MTA Employee Emergency Number:</p>	<p>213-680-1531</p>



Are You Ready?

April is California's 17th Earthquake Preparedness Month

By KATHY MURRELL

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(April 3) On average, a damaging earthquake strikes somewhere in California every two years. Would you be ready to ride it out if an earthquake hit today?

That's a question Californians should keep in mind as the state marks the 17th Annual Earthquake Preparedness Month in April. Since 1987, eight significant earthquakes have caused loss of life, injury and/or property damage in California:

- Whitter-Narrows, 5.9 – October 1, 1987 (8 deaths, 200 injuries, \$358 million in damages)
- Loma Prieta, 7.1 – October 17, 1989 (63 deaths, 3,757 injuries, \$5.9 million in damages)
- Upland, 5.5 – February 28, 1990 (38 injuries, \$10.4 million in damages)
- Sierra Madre, 5.8 – June 28, 1991 (1 death, 30+ injuries, \$33.5 million in damages)
- Humboldt County, 6.9 – April 25, 1992 (\$60 million in damages)
- Landers, 7.3 / Big Bear, 6.7 – June 28, 1992 (1 death, \$93 million in damages)
- Northridge, 6.7 – January 17, 1994 (57 deaths, 11,000+ injuries, \$40 billion in damages)

Despite the devastation caused by these temblors, you probably don't think much about earthquakes as you go through your day. But, some planning and thinking ahead will help you get ready to ride one out. In fact, the MTA has scheduled a number of earthquake preparedness efforts for employees:

- Business Emergency Response Team (BERT) Training (pre-designated team members from all operating divisions to assist during emergencies at field locations). A BERT meeting is scheduled Wednesday, April 5, at the Headquarters building.
- Distribution of earthquake information and employee earthquake wallet cards to all work locations in early April.
- Introduction of the Employee Emergency Information Line - (213) 680 -1531.
- Completion of inventory checks for emergency supplies procured and delivered to operating divisions.
- Earthquake Preparedness Fair at Headquarters, Thursday, April 27, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Monthly earthquake preparedness articles on the Intranet.
- New employees will receive the MTA's emergency preparedness

(ADAPT) manual.

Many communities also have planned Earthquake Preparedness Month activities. Be sure to check with your city for more information. If you have the opportunity, plan to attend the City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Fair, Friday, April 14 through Sunday, April 16, in the Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot.

Of course, we can't assume that the next earthquake to strike will occur while we're at work. So, here are a few tips for being prepared around your home:

<p>Be Prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Stock at least a 3-day supply of food, water, clothes, medical supplies, eyeglasses, extra cash (including change) and other items your family will need.■ Conduct Earthquake duck, cover, and hold drills every six months with your family.■ Identify the safest places in each room in your home so you know where to take cover during an earthquake.■ Identify all ways to exit your home and keep these areas clear.■ Decide where and when to unite should you be apart when an earthquake happens.■ Choose a person out of the area for family members to contact if separated.■ Locate shutoff valves for water, gas, and electricity. Learn how to turn off the valves before an earthquake. Be sure to train all members who may need to shut off these utilities after an earthquake.■ Make copies of vital records and make photos and/or a video of your valuables. Keep these records in a safe deposit box or with a trusted relative or friend in another city or state.■ Know the policies of the school or daycare center your children attend.	<p>In the event of an earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Remain calm.■ Stay inside.■ Protect yourself by ducking under a heavy piece of furniture or in a hall near an interior wall while covering your head and neck and holding on.■ Do not stand in a doorway. The door may injure you during the shaking.■ Stay away from appliances, large glass panes, shelves holding objects, and large decorative masonry, brick or plaster such as fireplaces.■ Keep hallways clear. They are usually one of the safest places to be during an earthquake. Stay away from kitchens and garages, which tend to be the most dangerous places.■ Check for injuries and render aid.■ Use the phone only for serious injury or fires.■ Check for hazards. Check gas and water leaks, broken electrical wiring and sewage lines. If damaged, turn off the source.■ Check the building for cracks and damage.■ Check food and water supplies.■ Turn on radio or TV (portable if no power) for instructions.■ Keep the streets clear for emergency vehicles.■ Be prepared for aftershocks.■ Remain calm and help others. If evacuating, post a message inside your home telling family members where to find you.■ Plan to report to work on your next scheduled shift, unless otherwise instructed. Check the Employee Emergency Hot Line
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at 213-680-1531.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)