

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month!

IN THIS REPORT:

[What to do before, during and after an earthquake.](#)
[Schedule of Earthquake Preparedness Month Activities](#)

By KATHY MURRELL

Californians celebrate the 19th Annual Earthquake Preparedness Month this year.

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 19th Annual Earthquake Preparedness Month in April. Since 1987, the following significant earthquakes have caused loss of life, injury and/or property damage:

- Whittier-Narrows, M5.9 – October 1, 1987 (8 deaths, 200 injuries, \$358 million in damage)
- Loma Prieta, M7.1 – October 17, 1989 (63 deaths, 3,757 injuries, \$5.9 million in damage)
- Upland, M5.5 – February 28, 1990 (38 injuries, \$10.4 million in damage)
- Sierra Madre, M5.8 – June 28, 1991 (1 death, 30+ injuries, \$33.5 million in damage)
- Humboldt County, M6.9 – April 25, 1992 (\$60 million in damage)
- Landers, M7.3 / Big Bear, M6.7 – June 28, 1992 (1 death, \$93 million in damage)
- Northridge, 6.7 – January 17, 1994 (57 deaths, 11,000+ injuries, \$40 billion in damage)

Although the emphasis of preparedness in April is on earthquakes, you can be prepared for other types of emergencies by following the same steps. Some planning and thinking ahead will help you get ready for the next emergency. Here are a few tips:

Before

- 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.

Did you know...?

The MTA has wallet-sized cards with instructions for employees to take following an earthquake. On the reverse, you can list the names and phone numbers of two out-of-state contacts. Contact Kathy Murrell at 922-4429 to receive a card. The MTA Employee Emergency Number is 213-680-1531. (3/27/02)

- 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 video of your valuables. Keep these records in a safe deposit box or with trusted relative/friend in another city or state.
- Know the policies of the school or daycare center your children attend.

During

- Remain calm.
- Inside, 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.

After

- Check for injuries and give aid.
- Only use the phone 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.

Community Earthquake Preparedness Month Activities

Various activities have been planned in the community to help you prepare. They feature hazard information, emergency supplies for purchase, emergency demonstrations / simulations, entertainment, give-aways and door prizes. So, be sure to check with your City

to find out what's happening in your neighborhood. Here are a few free events we know of:

Sat., April 6, 2002

City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Fair

- **San Fernando Valley**, Balboa Park, 17015 Burbank Blvd. at Balboa Blvd. - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Santa Clarita** Emergency Preparedness Expo
Saugus Speedway - 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sat., April 13, 2002

City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Fair

- **San Pedro** Ports O'Call Village, Berth 77, Parking Lot at Nagoya Way - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thurs., April 18, 2002

County of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Expo

- **Downtown Los Angeles**, Outside Mall Area, between Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and County Courthouse, 500 W. Temple - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sat, April 20, 2002

City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Fair

- **West Los Angeles**, Venice Beach, 1800 Ocean Front Walk at Windward Avenue - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sat, April 27, 2002

City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Fair

- **Central Los Angeles** - Olvera Street, 125 Paseo De La Plaza - 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)