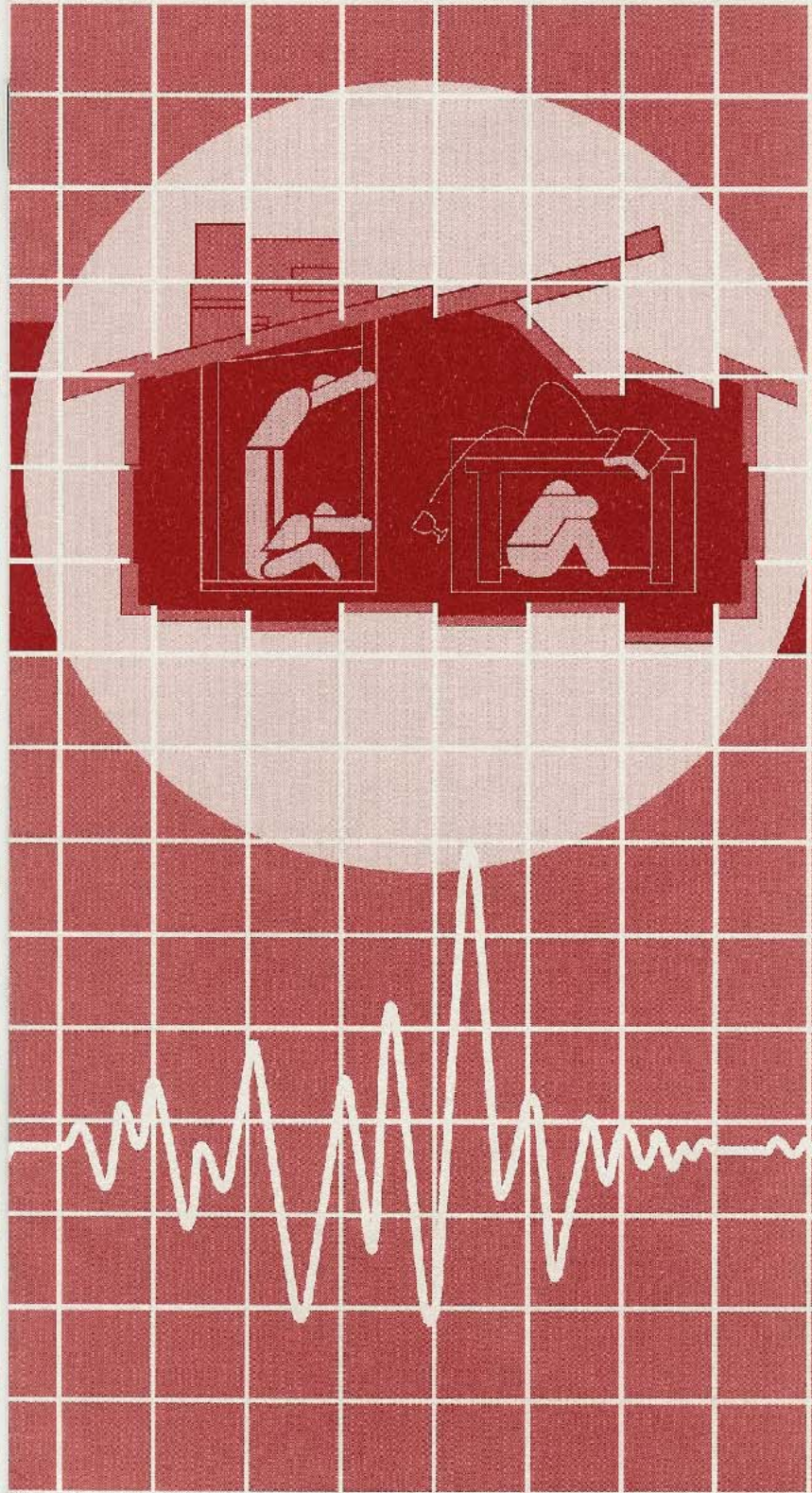


FEMA 46/October 1985

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY CHECKLIST



Important Numbers and Addresses

During the first 24 hours following a major earthquake, use your telephone only in case of an emergency.

Police _____

Fire _____

Ambulance _____

_____ 's work address

Phone _____

_____ 's work address

Phone _____

_____ 's school policy is:

Hold Student Release Student

_____ 's school policy is:

Hold Student Release Student

Name and telephone number of an out-of-town relative or friend who could act as point-of-contact for separated family members.

Are You Prepared for the Next Earthquake?



This booklet is designed to help you and your family plan for and survive a major earthquake. By taking certain preparedness measures, the impact of an earthquake can definitely be lessened. Set aside some emergency supplies, and teach your family what to do at home during and after a disaster. You could be without help for up to 72 hours, so learn to cope for at least that long.

Movement of the ground is seldom the actual cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from partial building collapse, falling objects and debris, like toppling chimneys,

falling bricks, ceiling plaster and light fixtures, and many of these conditions are easily preventable.

Because earthquakes occur without warning, it's important to take steps now to prepare, so that you know what you can do and how to respond—constructive, protective action is possible.

Have on Hand— For Any Emergency

Check



Flashlights with spare batteries. Keep a flashlight beside your bed. Do not use matches or candles after an earthquake until you are certain no gas leaks exist.



Portable radio with spare batteries. Most telephones will be out of order or used for emergency purposes so radios will be your best source of information.



First Aid Kit; first aid knowledge — have a first aid book such as the *Standard First Aid & Personal Safety* by the American National Red Cross. Have members of your household take basic Red Cross first aid and CPR courses.



Fire Extinguishers. Keep a fire extinguisher handy for small fires. Some extinguishers are only good for certain types of fires—electrical, grease, or gas. Class ABC extinguishers are designed to use safely on any type of fire. Your fire department can demonstrate proper use.



Food. It's always a practical idea to keep a supply of non-perishable food on hand which can be rotated into your diet and replenished on a regular basis. Have a sufficient supply of canned or dehydrated food, powdered milk and canned juices for at least 72 hours. Dried cereals and fruits and non-salted nuts are a good source of nutrition.



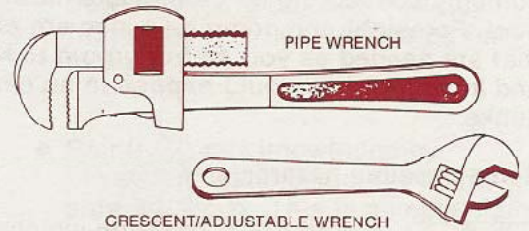
Water — should be stored in airtight containers and replaced about every six months. Store at least three gallons of water per person to be prepared for a 72-hour period. Also have purification tablets such as Halazone and Globaline but read the label on the bottle before using tablets.



Special Items. Have at least a week's supply of medications and special foods needed for infants or those on limited diets.



Tools. Pipe Wrench and Crescent Wrench — for turning off gas and water mains.

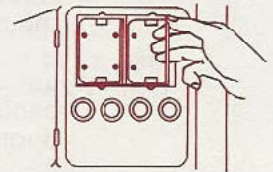


Home Preparedness

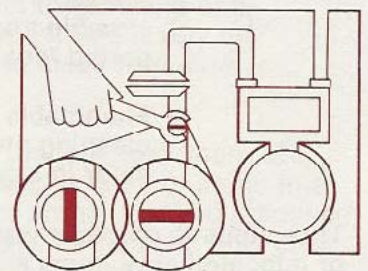
Teach responsible members of your family how to turn off electricity, gas and water at main switch and valves. **Caution:** Do not shut off gas unless an emergency exists. If gas is ever turned off, remember that all pilot lights must be relit.



Circuit Breaker



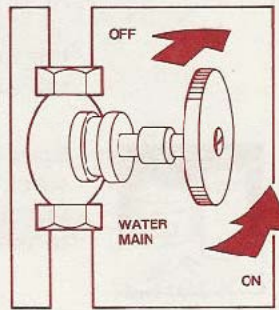
Pull-out Cartridge Fuses



Gas Valve

ON OFF

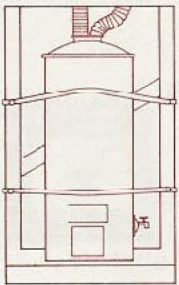
Label water shut-off valve, found where water enters the house. Also main water shut-off valve, found with meter in a concrete box in the sidewalk.



Earthquake Hazard Hunt

You can identify potential dangers in your home by conducting an earthquake hazard hunt. Foresight and common sense are all that are needed as you go from room to room and imagine what would happen in an earthquake.

Some possible hazards are:



- Tall heavy furniture which could topple, such as bookcases, china cabinets, or modular wall units.
- Hot water heaters which can be pulled away from pipes and rupture.
- Appliances which could move enough to rupture gas or electrical lines.
- Hanging plants in heavy pots that could swing free of hooks.
- Heavy picture frames or mirrors over the bed.
- Latches on kitchen or other cabinets which will not hold the door closed during shaking.
- Breakables or heavy objects that are kept on high or open shelves.
- A masonry chimney that could crumble and fall through an unsupported roof.
- Flammable liquids, like painting or cleaning products, that would be safer in a garage or outside shed.

Take steps to correct these hazards—secure or relocate heavy items as appropriate,

Family Earthquake Drill

It's important to know where you should go for protection when your house starts to shake. By planning and practicing what to do before an earthquake occurs, you can condition yourself and your family to react correctly and spontaneously when the first jolt or shaking is felt. An earthquake drill can teach your family what to do in an earthquake.

- Each family member should know safe spots in each room.
- Safe spots: The best places to be are under supported archways, against inside walls, and under heavy pieces of furniture like a desk or sturdy table.
- Danger spots: Stay away from windows, hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces and tall, unsecured furniture.
- Reinforce this knowledge by physically placing yourself in the safe locations. This is an especially important step for children.
- In the days or weeks after this exercise, hold surprise drills.
- Be prepared to deal with what you may experience after an earthquake—both physically and emotionally.

How to Ride Out the Earthquake!

During a major earthquake, you may experience a shaking that starts out to be gentle and within a second or two grows violent and knocks you off your feet...

or

you may be jarred first by a violent jolt—as though your house was hit by a truck. A second or two later you'll feel the shaking and, as in the first example, you'll find it very difficult (if not impossible) to move from one room to another.



If you are indoors, stay there. Get under a desk or table or stand in a doorway or corner like you practiced in your drills. Remember, stay clear of windows, bookcases, china cabinets, mirrors, and fireplaces until the shaking stops.



Turn on your battery-powered radio (or car radio) for damage reports and information.



Use charcoal broilers for emergency cooking, only out of doors.



Do not use your vehicle, unless there is an emergency. Do not go sightseeing through badly damaged areas. You will only hamper the relief effort. Keep streets clear for the passage of emergency vehicles.



Be prepared for aftershocks. These are usually smaller than the main quake but some may be large enough to do additional damage to structures weakened during the main shock.

If You Have to Evacuate.

Post a message in clear view where you can be found. List reunion points in case of separation. Such points may be neighbors, friends, relatives, school or community center.

a. _____

b. _____

Take with you:

- Medicines and first aid kit
- Flashlight, radio and batteries
- Important papers and cash
- Food, sleeping bags/blankets and extra clothes



Information on earthquake hazards and measures to reduce individuals' risks may also be available from:

U. S. Geological Survey
Public Inquiries Office
302 National Center
Reston, Virginia 22092

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Natural Hazards Division, ONTH-SLPS
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Contact your American Red Cross Chapter.

Issued by FEMA in furtherance of the Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.