

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

Everyone knows they should be prepared, but most people tend to "put things off." A major earthquake could hit at any time, so please plan now--it could save a life tomorrow. To help get you started, the following is a list of water-related necessities to get you "water" prepared:

☞ Prepare or purchase a three-to-five-day emergency home-pack for each family member. Give this a lot of thought and plan as if you were going camping to a remote location. Place the supplies in one container and store close to an outside exit. This is very important because after an earthquake, the food and water you have stored may not be easily accessible.

☞ Store drinking water in a cool, dark place that can be accessed easily and safely after an earthquake. Water can be stored outside using new high-density plastic barrels, and you should allow approximately 2 gallons per person per day. Stored water should be replaced every 3-6 months, or a water preservative may be added to extend storage life up to five years.

☞ Purify all drinking water suspected of bacterial contamination by one of the following methods:

1. Using commercial purification tablets, available at camping or drug stores.
2. Boiling water vigorously for several minutes.
3. Adding liquid chlorine bleach (LCB) at a rate of 8 drops per gallon to clear water or 16 drops per gallon to cloudy water. After adding LCB, allow water to stand one hour before drinking.

☞ Assign appropriate family members the responsibility of turning off the water at the meter or where the water enters the house **ONLY IF A LEAK IS DETECTED**. Keep a wrench for this purpose outside of the home (and out of sight). *For further information or questions, please contact the District's Consumer Service Department at (909) 595-7554 or the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management at (213) 974-1166.*