



Where Do I Start?

How About a Home Hazard Hunt !!

Don't let your own stuff be a hazard to your safety! It's a sobering fact that, according to a study done by UCLA, 55% of the people injured in the Northridge quake were injured by falling furniture or objects.

Secure your belongings! Look up! Stand in any room in your house and look around - particularly look up. Is there anything over your head, on a shelf or a wall, that could come loose and fly at you? Are there heavy things or glass-covered pictures or mirrors over your bed? You really need to consider what a minute or more of hard shaking is going to do to your home and belongings. The State of California's Earthquake Readiness Campaign suggests that you secure anything that is heavy enough to hurt you if it falls on you or fragile or expensive enough to be a significant loss if it breaks.

Move and attach! You can start now by moving furniture such as bookcases or entertainment units away from beds, sofas or other places people sit or sleep. Then attach those tall pieces of furniture to the walls. Move heavy objects to lower shelves. Don't forget heavy lamps by your bedside (fasten cords so they don't fly about).

Fasten down! Look for other items in your home that may be a hazard in an earthquake; filing cabinets, display cases, TVs, computers and electronics, objects on open shelves or table tops, the contents of closed cabinets, shelf units, wall hangings, or wheeled furniture. How about the stuff in the garage? Are all of your pesticides and paints, chemicals, flammables and propane tanks and shop equipment secured?

Think about glass! Any glass or porcelain object hitting your tile floors would be shattering around you during the quake, littering your floors with shards of sharp glass. Those glass-framed family photos and vases on table tops should be secured with quake wax or museum putty.

Knives off the counter! During the Northridge quake, rescue workers found knives imbedded in the walls of one home. Remove your knife block from your counter and place the knives in a drawer.

Stock up on supplies! Store and rotate plenty of water and food. Have an extra supply of medication. Don't forget your pets - have extra supplies for them as well.

Power! Fuel! Money! If you need power for medical devices, you will need to have a back up source (such as a generator). Keep your car fuel tanks full and don't forget to have cash on hand (including small bills) - ATMs and credit cards won't work!

Refer to: www.earthquakecountryinfo.com/daretopprepare/