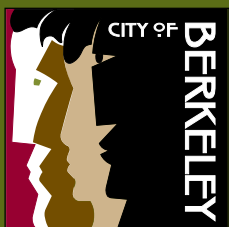


RENTERS

EARTHQUAKE
HAZARD HUNT

HERE in Berkeley, the ques-

tion is not *if* there will be an earthquake, it's only a matter of *when*. There is a 70% chance of a 6.7 quake striking the Greater Bay Area within 30 years. Our community has worked diligently since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the tragic 1991 East Bay Hills fire to make Berkeley a safer place for us all. We, at the City, want to encourage everyone to create a safer environment for your family and neighbors. This is a good time to look at home safety and reduce potential devastating effects of earthquakes by taking 30 minutes to walk through your home to identify potential house hazards.

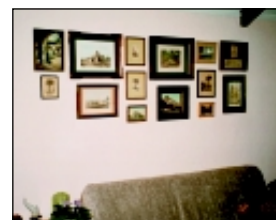


AFTER A CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE, it may take several days before government resources become available. You and your neighbors must be prepared to survive on your own, and take care of one another, for 5-7 days. Develop an emergency plan now that includes emergency supplies, an evacuation plan and an assembly point. Take classes in light search and rescue, simple firefighting, and disaster first aid. Hold meetings to get to know one another, to learn about checking vulnerable people in your building, and to share your skills.

1 **Identify top-heavy, freestanding furniture** that could topple in an earthquake, such as bookcases and china cabinets.

2 **Identify heavy or breakable objects** in high shelves or in cabinets. **Securely fasten or move.** For bookshelves, consider installing a wooden, elastic or metal bar (called guardrail) on open shelves to keep items from sliding or falling off.

3 **Identify mirrors and heavy frames** or objects that are over beds, couches, and chairs and move them or secure them in place by drilling screws into walls on all sides.



4 **Identify appliances and electronic equipment** that might slide off shelves. Secure with industrial-strength velcro or provide a restraining edge on the cabinet or shelf.

5 **Remove or fasten** anything that might potentially rupture gas or electrical connections.

6 **Check the batteries** in the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

7 **Make sure secure latches or hooks** are installed in kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors so that they remain closed during heavy shaking.

8 **Move poisons, toxins, and other dangerous chemicals** into lower cabinet space and place in plastic bins or containers.

9 **Know how to turn the gas and electricity off.** If your landlord does not live in the building, someone will need to know how to do this. In the event of an emergency, you cannot wait for your landlord to arrive to turn off the gas and electricity. Go to www.abag.ca.gov to learn how to locate the shut-off valves of these utilities.

PROPERTY OWNERS AND APARTMENT MANAGERS

YOU SHOULDN'T DEPEND ON YOUR TENANTS to know what to do in an emergency. It's up to you to get them and your building ready. Develop an emergency plan now that includes guidelines for storing water and food, an evacuation plan, and an assembly point. Hold meetings to discuss these plans and provide written information to your tenants.

1 **Check the water heater for the building.** Securely fasten it to the wall with a heater strap. You can learn more about this by going on to the Associated Bay Area Government (ABAG) website at www.abag.ca.gov and clicking on "Mitigation Techniques" then on "Reducing Risks of Nonstructural Earthquake Damage."



2 **Inspect the foundation of your apartment complex.** It should be securely bolted and shear walled. The concrete foundation should be securely fastened to the wooden structure of the building. The wooden structure above the concrete should be shear walled with plywood. If it was built before 1950, the wood is most likely not secured to the concrete. Have this checked by a licensed contractor.

3 **Check appliances and the water heater** to make sure they are connected to the fuel sources with flexible lines. Flexible connectors on all gas appliances and water heaters may be installed by an electrician.

4 **Clear dry brush and leaves** from the roof and around the building.

5 **Check for loose tiles and bricks** in the chimney and on the roof.

6 **Educate your tenants** on how to turn off the gas and electricity. If you do not live in the building, they will need to know how to do this in the event of an emergency and cannot wait for you to arrive. Post guidelines on what tenants should do in emergencies. Contact the Office of Emergency Services at 981-3473 for assistance in developing emergency plans for the building.



YOU CAN MAKE THE HAZARD HUNT quick and efficient by identifying the hazards first, then making the actual changes. You can find contractors listed in the phone book and on ABAG's website at www.abag.ca.gov. Take notes as you survey your home or make a checklist. Involve your family members and have them understand the safety procedures.

If you have any questions or would like general information about disaster prevention, other announcements, or safety events, contact the The Office of Emergency Services at 981-3473 or e-mail at fire@ci.berkeley.ca.us. For information on hazard reduction, call Project Impact at 981-7002.

DISASTER
BERKELEY
RESISTANT

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