

Earthquake checklist

Earthquakes occur suddenly, violently and without warning. Advance planning and recognizing potential hazards can reduce the risk of serious injury or death from an earthquake. Communicate and develop an emergency plan with your family.

- Secure the water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Acquire a wrench that fits gas and water valves. Educate all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water.
- Store breakable items, such as bottled foods, glass and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Fasten and secure bookcases, shelves and other top-heavy furniture with L-brackets. Secure TVs and electronics, so they cannot fall off shelves.
- Position beds away from windows and top-heavy furniture.
- Store enough drinking water as well as dry and canned food for a minimum of 3 days per person.
- Keep a first aid kit, a non-electric can opener, flashlight and portable battery-operated radio with extra batteries on hand.
- Attend first aid and CPR courses presented by your Gilroy Fire Department.
- Safe places are under sturdy furniture, doorframes or against an inside wall. Keep away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures or where heavy furniture could fall over.
- Ensure all family members know how to respond after an earthquake.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 for the police and fire departments. Tune to 1610 am for local traffic advisories and emergency notification.

For more information contact your Gilroy Fire Department at 846-0372.

