

City of Los Angeles

Emergency Preparedness Guide

Quick Reference For Households



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1 MAKE A PLAN

To look at the specific hazards in your area, input your address at myhazards.caloes.ca.gov

To develop a plan, gather with your household and run through this checklist:



GET YOUR HOUSE READY

- **Determine the most accessible escape routes** from your home, workplace and school
- **Identify meeting places** in and outside of your neighborhood
- **Make sure everyone knows the location of:**
 - Fire extinguishers,
 - Emergency kits,
 - Important documents, and
 - How to unlock doors/windows
- Know where **your utilities** (water, gas power breaker) are located and how to shut them off
- **Secure heavy furniture** to prevent injury during an earthquake
- If you live in a **wildfire prone area**, it is very important that you create and maintain the required 200 feet of Defensible Space. For more tips, visit lafd.org/ready-set-go.

START AN EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

- Start a text message group and make physical copies for your car, grab-and-go kit, and home
 - Include 2 out of state contacts
- For those **needing additional support**, such as post surgery patients, identify who in your support network can assist them if needed
- **If you live or work in the Tsunami Evacuation Area**, it is recommended you purchase a NOAA weather radio with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THESE 4 THINGS:

- Their home address and family phone numbers
- The family meeting locations
- How and when to call 9-1-1
- What to do if the smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm goes off
- Notify your children's school who will pick them up if you are unable too

PRACTICE

your plan annually and remember to regularly check:

- **Emergency Kit:** food, water and medication expiration dates
- **Contact List** is updated

2 BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

Keep separate kits in your house, car and workplace.

If possible, store 2 weeks worth of supplies. But even a few days will help!



- **First aid kit** - *know how to use the items*
- **Cash** - *small amounts in bills and coins*
- **Medications** - *know doses and have emergency prescriptions handy*
- **Any medical equipment** your family may need, including:
 - Backup battery power source for electric medical devices
 - Back-up equipment (such as manual wheelchair) at a nearby location



- **Flashlight** - *with extra batteries*
- **Radio** - *powered with batteries or solar-powered*
- **Tools** - *wrench or hammer for turning off utilities*



- **Water** - *1 gallon per person per day, include children and pets (for drinking and sanitation)*
- **Non-perishable foods** - *high nutrient food that covers dietary needs*
- **Manual can opener**



- **Extra clothing** - *including for bad weather*
- **Sturdy shoes** - *comfortable and durable*
- **Toiletries** - *feminine products, deodorant, toothbrush/toothpaste,*
- **Personal protective equipment** - *masks, gloves and sanitizer*
- **Personal comfort items** - *like games and books*
- **Electronic chargers**



GRAB-AND-GO KIT

Have a bag ready with your essential items in case you have to evacuate quickly.

- Travel-size sanitation supplies
- Extra pair of eyeglasses or contacts
- Whistle to signal for help
- Masks/face coverings
- Water or water purification method
- High-protein, high-calorie food
- Change of clothes
- Blanket
- Cell phone charger/ external battery pack
- Small games and books
- Photographs of each family member
- Pocket knife
- Maps

2 BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

IMPORTANT DOCUMENT KIT

- Birth/death/marriage certificates
- Passports, and immigration documents
- Recent family photos

- Insurance policies
- Property records, *such as property deed*
- Medical information *like medical records, prescription information and health insurance*
- Financial records *like recent tax return*

- Home Inventory:
 - *In order to file a claim for possessions lost or damaged during in emergency, you will need prior documentation of ownership*
 - *Take a video/photos of your possessions*
 - *Review the CA Department of Insurance's home inventory guide at [insurance.ca.gov](https://www.insurance.ca.gov)*



PET & SERVICE ANIMAL KIT

- 14 day supply of water and food
- Blankets/towels
- Leash, harness
- Litter pan, plastic bags, and scooper
- Pet carrier for easy transportation
- ID tags and microchip numbers
- A photo of you with your pet(s) to establish you are the owner in the event you are separated
- Familiar items toys, bedding, treats
- Medical records
- Copies of pet registration and/ or adoption paperwork

Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy easy-to carry container.



3 STAY INFORMED

Sign up for NotifyLA, the Los Angeles emergency notification system at:

[NotifyLA.com](https://www.notifyla.com)

During mass emergencies, the City will activate alert systems and share vital information via NotifyLA, local radio and tv stations.

Make sure you understand the notifications that you may receive:

Evacuation Warning or Voluntary Evacuation

Prepare to leave the area with your household, pets and emergency kits.

Evacuation Order or Mandatory Evacuation

A directive from the Police/Fire Department to leave your home or business immediately and not return until order is lifted. Failure to evacuate may be life-threatening.

Shelter-In-Place

Go inside with your animals immediately or stay in your vehicle.

4 GET INVOLVED

The first people to rescue others in an emergency are often your neighbors and not professional first responders.

The Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) workshop will help you and your neighbors create a Neighborhood Preparedness Plan with steps to take in the first hour after an emergency. This will help to reduce injuries and save lives.

Sign up for this free workshop at [ReadyLA.org](https://www.readyla.org)



The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program offers a free training course on basic survival skills.

For more information, visit [CERT-LA.com](https://www.cert-la.com)



5 DURING AN EMERGENCY



Protect Yourself During Earthquakes!

If possible:



DROP!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

Using a wheelchair



LOCK!



COVER!



HOLD ON!

Stay indoors until the shaking stops and wait for aftershocks (small and medium earthquakes that can occur after)

And If You Are:



OUTDOORS

Move to a clear area away from buildings, power lines, signs, trees and vehicles. Stay away from old or damaged buildings and anything else that could fall on you in an aftershock.



DRIVING:

Pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses, and power lines. Stay in the car until the shaking stops.



AT THE BEACH:

Move to higher ground immediately and follow tsunami evacuation signs.

Go to Earthquakecountry.org for more information.

Also consider participating annually in the world's largest earthquake drill, the 'Great ShakeOut' at shakeout.org

5 DURING AN EMERGENCY



ACTIVE SHOOTER

An active shooter is an individual who is trying to kill and injure people. In most cases, there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. The following is an overview of the Run, Hide, Fight survival principles:



Run/Escape

- If possible, help others to escape
- Do not attempt to move the wounded
- Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be
- Call 9-1-1 when you are safe



Hide

- Lock the door or block the entry to your hiding place with tables, chairs or anything else available
- Silence your cell phone



Fight

- Fight as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter



How You Should React when Law Enforcement Arrives

- Remain calm and follow instructions
- Keep hands free and visible
- Avoid quick movements directed toward officers as well as pointing/screaming

5 DURING AN EMERGENCY

TSUNAMI

A tsunami is one or more intense ocean waves, usually caused by an earthquake. All low-lying coastal areas, including the Los Angeles Harbor, Venice and West Los Angeles beaches are at risk.

A tsunami may not allow sufficient time to issue a warning via emergency alerts system.



When a tsunami warning is issued, or if you feel a strong earthquake at or near the coast:

- Evacuate immediately if you are within the Tsunami Evacuation Area
- Grab your go kit
- Move inland away from low-lying coastal areas by following evacuation routes
- Do not call 9-1-1
- Do not return home until authorities say it is safe to do so

For more information about tsunami risks, visit:
conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps

6 AFTER AN EMERGENCY

STAY CLEAR:

- Stay away from downed power lines
- DO NOT enter a damaged building. Wait for help and access to safety gear

FOLLOW PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Cooperate fully with public safety officials; they are trained to ensure safety
- Listen to local radio and TV stations for updated information

WITH FIRES:

- Only use a fire extinguisher on SMALL fires (smaller than a waste basket).
- For wildfires, close all windows to keep indoor air clean

NOTIFY YOUR CONTACTS:

Text loved ones to keep phone lines free for emergency responders

AVOID DRIVING:

Do not use your vehicle, unless there is an emergency evacuation order.

AVOID GAS:

Do not attempt to re-light the gas pilot until your gas line has been inspected

IF INSTRUCTED TO EVACUATE:

- Take your household, animals and emergency kits with you
- If possible, leave a message at your home telling others where you are going
- Do not re-enter your home until officials say it's safe

IF SHELTERING-IN-PLACE, SECURE AREA:

Once safe, check for gas and water leaks, and broken electrical wiring or sewage lines. If there is damage, turn the utility off at the source using a wrench or hammer.



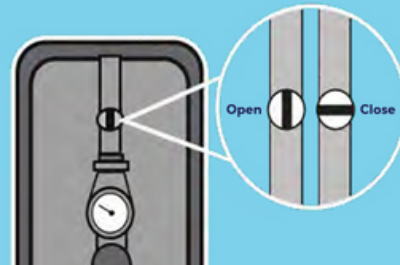
If you have damage, be patient and wait for the proper clearances from utility companies and health officials about making repairs and restoring your connections.



6 AFTER AN EMERGENCY

WATER

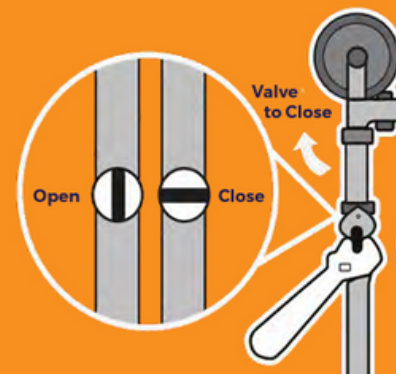
If pipes are damaged, turn off main water valve where water supply feeds the house. Do not flush toilet until you know sewage lines are intact.



GAS

DO NOT shut off the valve unless you smell or hear gas leaking. If you have "Natural Gas" (a line from the street) the main shut-off valve is located next to your meter.

Shut off valves covered with paint should be tapped gently to break the seal; forcing the valve can break it.



ELECTRICITY

DO NOT operate any electrical switches if a gas leak is suspected. Turn off individual breakers before turning off the main switch.

SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

As a last resort you can use water from the following sources:

- Reserves in the **water heater** (shut off, cool down and strain water before use)
- Your **plumbing** (turn off water valve before using)
- **Ice cubes**

DO NOT:

- Use water from the reservoir tank of your toilet
- Drink water from pools/spas

RATIOS FOR PURIFYING WATER WITH BLEACH

1 Quart = 4 Drops
1 Gallon = 16 Drops

After adding bleach, shake or stir the water container. Let stand for 30 minutes before drinking.

Questions?

Contact Us

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This document was prepared under a grant from FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.