Be Prepared at Home, Work, School in the Event of an Earthquake

PREPARE

1. Identify earthquake hazards in your home, and at your work. Know where your emergency supplies are: You should secure anything heavy enough to hurt you if it falls on you, or anything that will be a significant loss if it breaks. Locate all possible exits and fire extinguishers. Locate the First Aid Kit. Will it be accessible after an earthquake? Locate evacuation areas for the buildings you frequent.

2. Create a personal disaster plan: Plan now, assign roles for each person in your household. What will they do before, during and after an earthquake? Have a meeting place and an out-of-state contact. Learn basic first aid. Plan how to deal with the risk of fire, potential lack of utilities and basic services, and aftershocks. For those with functional or mobility needs, identify people who can assist you where you regularly spend time.

3. Create disaster supplies kits: Everyone should have a personal disaster supply kit, which is useful for many emergencies. Keep one kit in your home, one in your car, and a third at work. Your home should have a larger household kit with supplies to last three days to one week. Do you have a disaster kit at work. Does it have enough supplies for at least 3 days? Will it be accessible after an earthquake. If you cannot get home after an earthquake due to collapsed freeway overpasses/bridges have you made arrangements for your children/pets/parents and other members of your household?

4. Identify and fix your Home's weaknesses: There are several common issues that can impede a building's ability to withstand earthquake shaking, such as inadequate foundations, un-braced cripple walls, and unreinforced masonry.