

Are you prepared for our next earthquake?

Think about a few things to make you safer and better prepared.

1. Bed -- Large objects, like dressers or artwork, should be secured so as not to fall in or around your bed.
2. Flashlights -- A small expense, but have them everywhere. Some residents have them not only in bedside drawers, but mounted inside all closet doors for easy access in the dark.
3. Shoes -- A good idea to have bedside, should you have to move through the house when items are displaced or broken.
4. Phone -- Phone lines, cell and land, are the first things to get jammed in a not-so-minor earthquake. A quick text message saying "we're okay" to friends or family can sometimes go through more effectively even if phone lines are down.
5. Neighbors -- Be a good neighbor and check on those near you, especially the elderly who do not have family nearby.
6. Bottled Water -- It always a good idea to have bottled water stored away for brushing and washing (and drinking), should there be an temporary outage in water service.
7. Gas -- If you smell gas, especially after a quake, call Southern California Gas Company immediately at (1-800-427-2200).

Note from Bart: If you smell gas, you should try to shut off the gas supply. Calling the gas company might be impossible. (See number 4.) Most people should have earthquake shutoff valves, but also should know how to turn of the gas (and water as well) in the event of a leak.

Note from Joe: I agree that residents should know how to turn off the gas. It requires a special but inexpensive wrench which you can obtain at OSH or another hardware store. At our house we have it "zip tied" to the gas shut off valve so it will always be right there when needed.

You can find more tips at:

<http://www.socalgas.com/safety/preparation.shtml>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/earthquake>

Good luck and be safe.