



NEWARK IS IN EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY

The City of Newark, along with all other cities in the Bay Area, is vulnerable to damage caused by earthquakes. There is a 23 percent probability of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake occurring along the Southern Hayward Fault in the next 30 years. The City of Newark is only two miles from the Southern Hayward Fault. When a significant earthquake does occur, some buildings and their contents will be damaged.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

The Building Inspection Division's primary responsibility following a significant earthquake will be damage assessment. If it is apparent that an earthquake has caused extensive damage, the Building Inspection Division will inspect each and every building in the City. There will be a hierarchy for the order in which buildings will be inspected; schools and churches are inspected first. The following is the order of inspections:

- Schools and churches (may be needed as shelters)
- Retail stores
- Commercial buildings, hotels, and offices
- Industrial buildings
- Multi-family residential structures (apartments)
- Single-family homes

If an earthquake has not caused widespread or extensive damage, damage assessment will be performed only when requested by a property owner or tenant. There are no fees associated with earthquake damage assessments.

Damage assessments will be conducted by two-person teams. Generally, one person will be a licensed architect or structural engineer and the other person a certified building inspector. Each building subjected to a damage assessment will be evaluated and a placard will be posted on the building with one of three possible classifications:

- **INSPECTED** – Green Placard - This classification means that the building had no visible damage and can be legally occupied.
- **RESTRICTED USE** – Yellow Placard – This classification means the building has been damaged and occupancy is restricted.
- **UNSAFE** – Red Placard – This classification means the building has been seriously damaged and is unsafe to occupy.

PREPARING FOR THE BIG ONE

Before an earthquake occurs, develop a family earthquake plan. Prepare yourself, your family, and your home by completing the activities on this checklist.

Before the Quake

- Decide how and where your family will reunite if separated.
- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative that separated family members can call after the quake to report their whereabouts and condition.
- Know the safe spots in each room: under sturdy tables, desks, or against inside walls.
- Know the danger spots: windows, mirrors, hanging objects, masonry fireplaces, stored objects in high open shelving, and tall unsecured furniture.
- Conduct practice drills. Physically place yourself in safe locations.
- Learn first aid and CPR from your local Red Cross chapter or other community organization.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers.
- Learn how to shut off gas, water, and electricity in case the lines are damaged.
- Check chimneys, roofs, walls, and foundations for stability. Make sure your house is bolted to its foundation. (The City has details on how to bolt houses to their foundations.)
- Secure water heater and appliances that could move enough to rupture utility lines. For details on securing a water heater. Refer to the City's handout titled "Water Heater Replacement."
- Keep breakables and heavy objects on bottom shelves.
- Secure heavy, tall furniture that can topple, such as bookcases, china cabinets, or wall entertainment centers.
- Secure hanging plants and heavy picture frames or mirrors (especially over beds).
- Put latches on cabinet doors to keep them closed during shaking.
- Keep flammable or hazardous liquids such as paints, pest sprays, or cleaning products in latched cabinets or secured on lower shelves.
- Maintain emergency food, water, and other supplies, including a flashlight; a portable battery-operated radio; extra batteries; medicines; first aid kit; and clothing.

During the Quake

- If indoors, stay there. Get under a desk or table or stand in a corner.
- If outdoors, get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines.
- If in a high-rise building, stay away from windows and outside walls. Get under a table. Do not use elevators.
- If driving, pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses and power lines. Stay inside your vehicle until shaking is over.
- If in a crowded public place, do not rush for the doors. Move away from display shelves containing objects that could fall.

After the Quake

- Check for injuries. Apply first aid. Do not move seriously injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger.
- Do not use the telephone immediately unless there is a serious injury or fire.
- Hunt for hazards.
- Check for gas and water leaks, broken electrical wiring or sewage lines. If there is damage, turn utility off at the source.
- Check building for cracks and damage, including roof, chimneys, and foundation.
- Check food and water supplies. Emergency water may be obtained from water heaters, melted ice cubes, toilet tanks, and canned vegetables.

- Turn on your portable radio for instructions and news reports. Cooperate fully with public safety officials.
- Do not use your vehicle unless there is an emergency. Keep the streets clear for emergency vehicles.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Stay calm and lend a hand to others.
- If you evacuate, post a message inside your home telling family members where you can be found.

STORE EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

- Flashlights with extra batteries. Do not use matches or candles after an earthquake until you are certain no gas leaks exist.
- Portable radio with extra batteries. For local information tune to AM 1610 which is the City's radio station.
- First aid kit.
- Fire extinguisher. Your fire extinguisher should be suitable for all types of fires.
- Food. Store a one-week supply of food for each person (and pets).
- Water. Store enough water for each person to have one gallon per day. Store in airtight containers and replace the water every six months. Keep a disinfectant such as iodine tablets or chlorine bleach to purify water if necessary.
- Blankets, clothing, and shoes. Extra blankets and clothing may be required to keep warm. Have sturdy shoes to protect feet from broken glass and other debris.
- Alternate cooking source. Store barbecue, charcoal, starter, and matches in case utilities are out of service.
- Special items. Have at least a week's supply of medications and food for infants and those on special diets.
- Tools. Have crescent or pipe wrench to turn off gas and water if necessary.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information for preparing for a disaster, the following web sites can be visited:

- American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/ca/scv/>
- Earthquake Web Link at <http://www.georisk.com/links/webeq.shtml>
- The Community Preparedness Web Site Project at <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/>
- Association of Bay Area Government at <http://www.abag.ca.gov/home.html>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at <http://www.fema.gov/>