

Earthquake Consulting, Securing, & Supply

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FREE REPORT

Rate Yourself on Earthquake Preparedness

We've all seen the articles on earthquakes. Most seemed designed to just scare us, and often without giving us good, solid recommendations.

So here's a quick check-list on how you're doing:

PART ONE

Have you:

- had your home's connection to the foundation evaluated for seismic readiness by an engineer or qualified retrofit contractor?

- secured the appliances and furniture in your home which could hurt you

during an earthquake?

- installed an automatic gas shut-off valve at your gas meter?
- emergency kits for home and car (car kit should be a backpack)
- determined the safest place to be in each room?
- developed a family plan dealing with after-the-quake?

If you answered yes to all six questions, you rate about 95% on the preparedness scale – congratulations!

Any “no’s”?? If so, there’s no better time than now (since it’s not too late) to get these things done. Remember, “some day I’ll” is of little comfort on the day a major quake comes. (SEE NEXT PAGE)

PART TWO

True or false:

1. If your home was “retrofitted” in the last 5 years, you’re likely to be in good shape.
2. Your water heater is the appliance that needs to be secured.
3. Most injuries in earthquakes are from the resulting fires.
4. Most earthquake damage is caused by the resulting displacement of soil.
5. In an earthquake, a home built on bedrock will suffer more, since the rock will transfer the shaking. Conversely, a home on soft soils will fare better, since the soft soil “deadens” the shaking.
6. At home during a serious quake, go quickly to the safest room in the house, or run outside.

7. In general, a doorway is the safest place to be in a quake.
8. East Bay city building codes (especially since 1990) address seismic retrofitting as a special section of the code.
9. After a quake, grants from FEMA to homeowners will cover a maximum of \$50,000 for damage not covered by any insurance.

Answers: the answer to every one of the above statements is “false.”

1. Unfortunately, there are contractors out there who are not performing complete and adequate retrofits. One of the best contractors in the area says that fully 30% of his business is coming along behind other contractors and doing the job right.
2. It is recommended to secure, when possible, furnaces, refrigerators, and washers/dryers
3. Most injuries are caused by objects falling on people.
4. Most earthquake damage is caused by shaking.
5. Just the opposite.
6. In general, the less moving around you do the better. The house is shaking! Do NOT go outside.
7. You can be injured by a swinging door, do not go to a doorway!
8. Berkeley is the only city in the Bay Area with a code, and the one they adopted is majorly flawed and has resulted in fewer retrofits being done.
9. You can't get a FEMA grant unless you don't qualify for a loan. The average grant is less than \$15,000. All the more reason to have your seismic retrofit checked!