



# PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

It is important to take precautions to protect your property before an emergency situation arises. There are a few things you may want to consider to ensure that your property survives an emergency in the best condition possible.

## ***Preparing Your Home for an Emergency***

- Do a home hazard hunt with your family to spot any potential hazards or dangers around the house before an emergency situation.
- Have a qualified technician repair any defective electrical wiring or leaky gas connections.
- Make sure shelves, pictures, and mirrors are secure on the wall and away from beds.
- Place large heavy objects on the bottom shelf.
- Secure the water heater by strapping it to structural members.
- Repair any cracks in the ceilings or home foundation.
- Store any flammable liquids (pesticides, oil, oily rags, etc.) away from heat sources and possibly in metal cans to prevent fires.
- Make sure your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and gas vents are clean.
- Make an emergency plan as a family.
- Build a family emergency kit, and determine the best location to store it.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to be informed about what might happen, make a family emergency plan, and build an emergency supply kit.

## ***Preparations for Specific Emergencies***

- Earthquakes
  - Make sure all tall, heavy furniture (e.g., bookcases, dressers) is bolted to structural members in the walls.
  - Install stronger latches on your cabinets.
- Fires
  - Check smoke alarms monthly, and change batteries annually.
  - If you use oxygen equipment, make sure the shut-off switch is near your bed or chair.
- Floods
  - Make sure that your fuse box/electric panel is located above average flood level for your area.
  - Try to elevate appliances (e.g., furnace, water heater, washer, and dryer) above average flood level for your area.
- Hurricanes
  - Install hurricane shutters.
  - If you do not have hurricane shutters, have enough pre-cut plywood and tape to cover your windows and doors.
  - If you live in mobile housing, secure it to a foundation using chains or strong cables.

## ***Preparations for Specific Emergencies (continued)***

- Wildfires
  - Create a 30-foot safety zone around your home by removing and limiting vegetation.
  - Remove all debris in and around your property.
  - Use fire-resistant siding on your home.
  - Use safety glass for windows and doors if possible.
- Tornadoes
  - Identify a place in your home to take shelter in case of a tornado. A storm shelter or basement provides the best protection. Otherwise, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
  - Have frequent tornado drills.

## ***During an Emergency***

- Turn off gas and electricity before you evacuate.
- If a hurricane, flood, thunderstorm, or tornado warning has been issued, bring any outdoor furniture inside to prevent it from being moved by wind or flood waters.

## ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—<http://www.fema.gov/what-mitigation/plan-prepare>

## ***Semper Paratus***

**Be “Always Ready.”** Be informed about what might happen, make an emergency plan with your family, and build an emergency supply kit good for at least three days.