East Jefferson Fire Rescue



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Be Prepared...

- Keep an earthquake supply kit. Put together an earthquake supply kit with essentials, such as blankets, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, extra cash and change, portable radio and other supplies for cooking, sanitation and comfort.
- Decide where and when to reunite your family should you be apart when an earthquake happens.
- Choose a person outside the immediate area to contact if family members are separated. Long distance phone service will probably be restored sooner than local service. Do not use the phone immediately after an earthquake.
- Know the policies of the school or daycare center your children attend. Make plans to have someone pick them up if you are unable to get to them.

The Olympic Peninsula is deeply seated in "earthquake country," East Jefferson Fire Rescue urges you and your family to always be prepared. Here are a few tips on how to stay safe and prepared for the aftermath of an earthquake.

When preparing for an earthquake, we recommend that you not only self-prepare, but that you assist in preparing your neighbors for disaster.

- If you have a family member who does not speak English, prepare an emergency card written in
 English indicating that person's identification, address and any special needs such as medication or
 allergies. Tell that person to keep the card with him/her at all times.
- Conduct Earthquake: Duck, Cover & Hold drills every six months with your family.
- Know the safest place in each room because it will be difficult to move from one room to another during a quake.
- Locate the shutoff valves for water, propane gas, and electricity. Learn how to shut off the valves before a quake.
- Make copies of vital records and keep them in a safe deposit box in another city or state. Make sure your originals are stored safely.
- Establish all the possible ways to exit your house. Keep those areas clear.
- Know the locations of the nearest fire and police stations.
- Take photos and/or videos of your valuables. Make copies and keep them in another city or state.
- Include your babysitter and other household help in your plans.
- Keep an extra pair of eyeglasses and house and car keys on hand.

If an Earthquake Hits...

- Drop, Cover and Hold. No matter where you are, take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture and hold on to it until the shaking stops. Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture. Conduct earthquake drills every six months with your family.
- Keep your hallway clear. It is one of the safest places to be during an earthquake.
- Learn how to shut off utilities. Locate and learn how to shut off valves for water, propane, and electricity.
- Be self-sufficient. In a major disaster, emergency personnel will be inundated and may not be available to you for at least 96 hours or longer. Keep a supply of water, food, medications and clothing on hand.

Drop, Cover, and Hold...

- Drop down onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from falling, but still allows you to move, if necessary.
- Cover your head and neck under a sturdy desk or table.
- Hold on to your shelter until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move along with your shelter, if the shaking shifts it around.

After the Shaking...

- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Check for injuries and give first aid to those who are injured.
- Check for fires and hazards.
- Wear closed-toe shoes, if near debris.
- Check for damaged utilities.
 - » Do not turn off propane unless you see or smell a leak.
 - » Do not use candles or matches as they may ignite a fire.
- Turn on a portable or car radio for emergency bulletins and instructions/information.
- Do not use cell phones or landlines unless it is for a medical, fire or public safety emergency.
- Clean up spilled medicine, flammable liquids, bleaches and chemicals.
- Check house, roof and chimney, if it is safe to do so.
- Carefully open closets and cupboards as objects have probably shifted.
- Do not use your vehicle, except for an emergency. Keep streets clear for emergency vehicles.
- Do not touch or go near downed power lines.
- Stay out of damaged buildings until they have been deemed safe.