STAYING SAFE AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE OR OTHER DISASTER

After any disaster, be sure to monitor your TV or radio to stay informed. If there is a power outage, a battery-operated radio is the best resource for emergency information. Many radio stations have back-up power generators so they can operate during power outages. There may be fires, chemical spills, landslides and dam breaks after a disaster, so it is critical to have access to emergency information.

San Francisco Earthquake - 1989

After an earthquake, be prepared for additional earth movements called "aftershocks." Although most of these are smaller than the main earthquake, some may be large enough to cause additional damage or bring down weakened structures.

Injuries

- Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move injured or unconscious people unless they are in immediate danger from live electrical wires, flooding, or other hazards.
- Internal injuries may not be evident, but may be serious or life-threatening. If someone has stopped breathing, call for medical or first aid assistance immediately and begin CPR if you are trained to do so.
- Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound. If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location.

Checking Utilities

An earthquake may break gas, electrical, and water lines. If you smell gas: (1) open windows; (2) shut off the main gas valve; (3) do not turn any electrical appliances or lights on or off; (4) go outside; (5) report the leak to authorities; and (6) do not reenter the building until a utility official says it is safe to do so.

Arkansas Department of Health
Keeping Your Hometown Healthy

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- If electric wiring is shorting out, shut off the electric current at the main box.
- If water pipes are damaged, shut off the supply at the main valve.
- Water may not be safe to drink or cook with; however, unless told otherwise by local officials it should be safe for bathing, cleaning, etc.
- Listen to public announcements. Local authorities will tell you if tap water is safe to drink or to use for cooking or bathing. If the water is not safe to use, follow local instructions to use bottled water or to boil or disinfect water. Boil water notices known to the Arkansas Department of Health are listed on its website: **http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/eng/autoupdates/boilordr.htm** or call **501-661-2623**

Other Precautions

- Have chimneys inspected for cracks and damage. Do not use the fireplace if the chimney has any damage.
- Check to see if sewage lines are intact before using bathrooms or plumbing.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the authorities.
- Immediately clean up spilled medicines, drugs, flammable liquids, and other potentially hazardous materials.
- Stay off all telephones except to report an emergency. Replace telephone receivers that may have been knocked off by the earthquake.

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- Stay away from damaged areas. Your presence could hamper relief efforts, and you could endanger yourself.

- Cooperate fully with public safety officials. Respond to requests for volunteer assistance from police, fire fighters, emergency management officials, and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested.

Evacuating Your Home

If you must evacuate your home:
- Post a message, in a prearranged location known only to family members, indicating where you have gone.
- Take your pets with you. Try to plan ahead to have a safe place to take your pets. Many disaster shelters cannot accept pets, so first try going to a relative or friend's house or a pet-friendly hotel. Also, be sure to bring a crate for your pet.
- Take vital documents (wills, insurance policies, etc.), emergency supplies, and extra medications with you.

For more information on protecting you and your family, go to ***www.healthy.arkansas.gov*** or call toll-free at ***1-800-462-0599*** or go to ***www.bt.cdc/disasters***