



Earthquake Preparedness in Cars March, 2015

In collaboration with Councilmen Tom LaBonge and Mitchell Englander, this month's Emergency Management Department (EMD) bulletin will discuss steps you can take to prepare yourself if you are in your car when an earthquake occurs. Given the large amount of time that residents of Los Angeles spend in their cars, knowing how to react to an earthquake while driving is essential.

If you are in the car when an earthquake occurs:

- Stay in the car.
- Pull to the side of the road, and stop as quickly as safety permits.
- Use a GPS tracking device or a satellite messenger to send an emergency assistance request if there is a severe medical emergency. A satellite messenger advanced GPS device is able to send your exact GPS coordinates and selected messages over commercial satellites to tell others of your location and status.
- Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.
- Do not attempt to drive across bridges or overpasses that have been damaged.
- Proceed cautiously after the earthquake has stopped, watching for road and bridge damage.

Car emergency kits should include:

- Local maps
- Short rubber hose for siphoning
- Fully equipped first aid kit
- First aid manual (comprehensive)
- Bottled water (rotate every 2-3 months)
- Non-perishable foods
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Flashlight with extra batteries and bulb
- Fire extinguisher (CO2)
- Pocket radio with extra batteries
- Tissues and pre-moistened towels
- Tools (screwdriver, pliers, wire, pocket knife, can opener and duct tape)
- Extra clothes and sturdy shoes
- Sealable plastic bags
- Matches
- Toiletries
- Work Gloves
- Prescription medicine

Note:

Do **NOT** carry spare gas in the trunk. Instead, keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half-full at all times.



Homeowner Preparation for Earthquakes November 2015

In this month's bulletin, the Emergency Management Department (EMD) highlights structural safety for houses.



Examine your home:

- Is your home properly bolted to the foundation?
 - Crawl underneath your house with a flashlight.
 - The wood that rests directly on the foundation (called the mud sill) SHOULD be bolted to the foundation. Homes built before 1940 are often left unbolted to their foundations.
- Does your cripple wall need plywood?
 - If your cripple walls are covered with only stucco or wood siding, they need additional re-enforcement.
- Are there faulty materials in the wood and concrete framing?
 - Check for insect damage and dry rot.
 - Unreinforced brick or stone masonry may need to be replaced, requiring an engineer or architect.

If my home needs strengthening, what steps can I take?

- There are Standard Plans available that will greatly reduce the time required for plan check and therefore permits can be issued much faster. A list of Standard Plans can be found here <http://netinfo.ladbs.org/stdplan2.nsf/>
- The Anchor Bolting/Bracing Foundation Drawing Standard Plan can be found here http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/LADBS_Forms/Publications/anchor_bolting.pdf

How do I find an engineer, architect or contractor?

- Engineers: Call the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California at (562) 908-6131.
- Architects: Call the American Institute of Architects at (310) 785-1809.
- Contractors:
 - You should visit the Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board's website http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/Hire_A_Contractor/
 - You can verify a contractor's information, including complaint disclosure by going to <https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx>

Earthquake Insurance

Earthquake insurance in California is typically **not** part of your homeowner's insurance policy. You may purchase a California Earthquake Authority (CEA) policy only through CEA's participating insurers. A complete list is on the CEA web site:

<http://www.earthquakeauthority.com/insurancepolicies/Pages/participatinginsurers.aspx>

Additional information:

- City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Offices at (213) 580-1133 to locate an office near you. Visit their website at <http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/public-home.jsf> for more resources.
- Structural Engineers Association for updates and industry news on structural safety <http://www.seaosc.org/>.
- California Architects Board provides consumer information on hiring an architect http://www.cab.ca.gov/pdf/publications/consumers_guide.pdf.

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