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California Earthquake Preparedness Month to be Replaced by New Multi-Hazard Campaign

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has announced that after 19 years, it will no longer sponsor the annual California Earthquake Preparedness Month each April. Recent events, including the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, have made it abundantly clear that emergency planners, responders and the general public must prepare for a variety of hazards including the potential threat of biological, chemical or other terrorist attack, in addition to natural disasters. The OES is working with state, federal and local officials to develop a campaign that will address these multiple hazards.

While OES focuses its attention on developing the new campaign, earthquakes remain a known and very real hazard. The 5.4 magnitude earthquake centered near Big Bear City on February 22 of this year reminded Californians that we still live in "Earthquake Country." All Californians should develop and practice an earthquake preparedness plan, both at home and at work. Preparations should include assembling an emergency supply kit, developing evacuation and communication plans, and practicing these plans so that the process becomes automatic. These preparations will reduce your risk of death, injury or property loss.

When an earthquake occurs, emergency services will be overwhelmed responding to major incidents such as fallen power lines, ruptured gas and water pipes and major structural damage. Public safety officials will be focused on search and rescue operations and transporting the injured. The general public should expect to be self-sufficient for at least the first 72 hours following any major disaster.

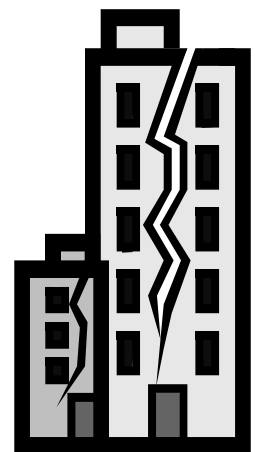
OES encourages local agencies to continue their earthquake preparedness education campaigns and drills. To facilitate these efforts, California earthquake preparedness information will remain on the OES Web site while new information is added to enhance the preparedness of all Californians to survive current and future hazards. For more information, visit the OES Web site at: <http://www.oes.ca.gov>.

The articles on the following pages provide important information to assist you now in preparing to "Beat the Quake" as well as to prepare for other major emergencies, both natural and manmade.

Emergency Evacuation Drill Planned

On Wednesday, April 30, alarms will sound on the SDSU campus. Roughly half of the campus will participate in an emergency evacuation drill sponsored by the SDSU Emergency Planning Team. Departments in the affected buildings will be trained on proper emergency procedures and assembly locations before the day of the drill. If you hear an alarm, calmly leave the building by the nearest safe exit and follow the instructions of emergency personnel.

To prepare yourself before an emergency occurs, take some time to review the green Emergency Procedures brochure and visit the SDSU Emergency Preparedness Web site at: <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/emergency/>



SDSU Emergency Procedures

Emergencies are by their nature unexpected. The key to survival is planning and preparation. Emergencies that might require evacuation of campus buildings include earthquake, fire, flood, chemical spill, gas release, or other hazardous materials event. For some emergencies, evacuation is not recommended (see article on “Shelter in Place”). A brief summary of emergency procedures follows. For more detailed information, consult the green and white “Emergency Procedures” flipchart that should be posted in each department and classroom. If you need more flipcharts, contact Environmental Health and Safety at 46778. The chart is also available online at: <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/emergency/booklet.htm>



In an Earthquake:

- **DUCK, COVER and HOLD.** Take cover under a desk or table or near an interior doorway. **PROTECT YOUR HEAD AND NECK.** Wait for the shaking to stop.
- Stay away from windows and objects that could fall on you.
- **DO NOT EXIT THE BUILDING WHILE EARTH IS MOVING.** Most injuries are caused by falling debris.
- If you are outdoors, move to an open area. **DO NOT ENTER BUILDINGS.**
- Once the shaking stops, check for injuries and immediate hazards (fire, toxic spills, exposed power lines, gas leaks, broken glass and debris).
- If no immediate danger, stay with the seriously injured, send someone for help, and evacuate all others.
- If in immediate danger, evacuate everyone including the seriously injured.

In a Fire:

- Call **9-1-1** to report the location of the fire. **PULL FIRE ALARM.**

- Alert others nearby and move everyone away from the area of the fire.
- Use fire extinguishers only on small fires (waste-basket sized or smaller) and only if safe to do so.
- For any larger fire, **GET OUT.** Close as many doors as possible behind you to confine the fire.
- If clothing catches fire, **STOP, DROP and ROLL.**
- Evacuate the building.

Evacuation Procedures:

- **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS** during a fire or after an earthquake.
- If time and conditions permit, secure your workplace and take personal items with you.
- Take the nearest safe route to exit the building. Know the locations of alternate exits. Nearest exits may be impassable or unsafe due to hazard or debris.
- In a fire, feel doors for heat before opening. Stay low to avoid smoke.
- Cooperate with emergency personnel.
- Remain outside until instructed that it is safe to return.

Emergency Assembly Points:

- Know your Emergency Assembly Point. These are listed on the SDSU Emergency Preparedness Web site at: <http://bfa.sdsu.edu/emergency/>
- In an emergency, proceed to your designated assembly point and await instructions from emergency personnel.

Biological, Chemical or Radiological Hazard:

These events are extremely rare and may be undetected when they occur. The best preparation is to stay alert and informed. Public Health and Safety officials will provide information as soon as it is available. These may be situations when it would be advisable to shelter in place. During any emergency, turn on your TV or radio to receive updated instructions. SDSU's Department of Public Safety is currently researching a campus emergency communication system. If this system is activated, the campus will be notified and instructed on its use.

Shelter in Place

When is evacuation not recommended? During certain emergency situations the environment outside may pose more hazards than staying inside. These might include biological, chemical or radioactive materials releases, earthquakes while the ground is shaking, and certain weather conditions. Some of these situations may be difficult or impossible to detect when they occur, so it is important to maintain communication through television, radio or the Internet. Always have a battery-powered radio with extra batteries available for emergency use in case of power outages. Conditions may change rapidly as information becomes available, and emergency instructions will be broadcast through these channels. Use the available information to assess the situation and determine whether it is advisable to “shelter in place.” If so, follow these steps:



- Pre-select an interior room or corridor with few windows and doors.
- Bring family members and pets inside.
- Close doors, windows, air vents and fireplace dampers.
- Turn off air conditioning, forced air heating, and exhaust fans.
- Create a barrier between yourself and potential contamination using plastic sheeting, wet towels, or other available material.
- Gather your emergency supply kit.
- Drink only bottled water; eat only packaged food.
- Monitor emergency radio and television broadcasts for further instructions. On campus, check <http://www.sdsu.edu> for updates.

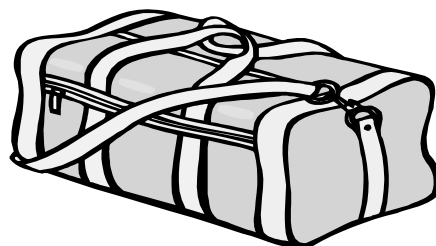
When the “all clear” signal is received:

- Open doors, windows and air vents.
- Turn on air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems.
- Go outside and allow the building to vent before returning inside.

Emergency Survival Supplies

Prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours following any major disaster. Emergency services will be responding to the most serious situations and may not be available to assist you. Your recovery will be more comfortable if you assemble the following supplies before an emergency occurs. Store supplies in a duffel bag or backpack that is easily accessible at home, at work and in your vehicle. Personalize the contents as appropriate:

- Nonperishable, nutritious food.
- Water—one gallon per person per day (canned fruits and vegetables are a good source of water).
- Cooking utensils and a manual can opener.
- Camp stove or gas barbecue for outdoor use (ensure there are no gas leaks before using).
- Disposable plates and silverware.
- First aid kit and handbook.
- Prescription medicines and eyeglasses.
- Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies including heavy plastic bags and buckets.
- Flashlight and batteries (no candles).
- Portable radio and extra batteries.
- Work gloves and dust masks for clearing debris.
- Sturdy shoes and comfortable clothes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags and plastic tarps.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Tools to turn off water/gas (only if leaking).
- Infants: formula/food, bottles, diapers, etc.
- Pets: food, water, bowls, leash or carrier.
- Emergency cash (ATMs may not work).



Homeland Security at SDSU

SDSU's Department of Public Safety is making every effort to inform the campus on the status of homeland security alerts and what they mean to us. Captain Steve Williams and President Stephen Weber have both issued campus messages regarding the current orange (high) national alert level. An emergency briefing was held on March 20 to update Safety Coordinators regarding campus safety and emergency procedures. And a campus wide presentation on April 16 entitled "Homeland Security and You" provided information on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and weapons of mass destruction. Special Agent John Sylvester, San Diego FBI, was present to answer questions. To date, the university has no knowledge of any specific security threats to the campus; however, as President Weber wrote, "...by their very nature, major universities are 'soft targets'." Captain Williams and the administration are dedicated to keeping the campus as safe as possible by maintaining close and regular contact with the local office of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies.

These messages and updated information have been added to the SDSU Emergency Preparedness Web site, now accessible from the SDSU Home Page. Just go to [Hot Topics](#) and select [Latest Emergency Preparedness Info](#) or go directly to:

<http://bfa.sdsu.edu/emergency/>

This page also links to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Web site for all the latest news on the national alert status. Their brochure "Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now." is available to download at www.ready.gov.



First Aid Kit Checklist

Cal/OSHA requires that adequate first aid materials be available in the workplace and that they be inspected frequently and replenished as needed. For most SDSU departments, minimum contents should include:

- ✓ 1 Absorbent Compress, 32 square inches - sterile, packaged and sealed
- ✓ 16 Adhesive Bandages, 1" x 3" - sterile, packaged and sealed
- ✓ 1 Roll Adhesive Tape - 3/8" x 5 yards
- ✓ 4 Sterile Pads, 3" x 3" - sterile, packaged and sealed
- ✓ 1 Triangular Bandage, 40" x 56" - muslin or similar strength (may be used as a sling)
- ✓ 2 Medical Exam Gloves (one pair)
- ✓ 10 Antiseptic applications - single use packets or spray
- ✓ 6 Burn Treatment applications, water soluble only - single use packets or spray
- ✓ First Aid Handbook
- ✓ CPR barrier with instructions for use (Optional)

Over the counter medications are not recommended in the workplace first aid kit. Only medical personnel should provide medications. First aid should not take the place of emergency medical care. For medical emergencies, call **9-1-1** and Public Safety will respond.

EH&S Welcomes Alvin Shoemaker

Spring semester 2003 brought a new staff member to Environmental Health and Safety at SDSU. Alvin Shoemaker joined the staff as our newest Environmental Health and Safety Specialist. His duties will focus on campus hazardous waste and hazardous materials management. Alvin grew up in San Diego's North County and earned his bachelor's degree in Environmental Health from SDSU. After graduating, Alvin worked for several environmental companies in Northern and Southern California, most recently at 3E Company in Carlsbad where he coordinated emergency spill response for clients nationwide. Alvin is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Certified Hazardous Materials Manager. Alvin is uniquely qualified for his new position at SDSU. As an SDSU graduate, he had firsthand knowledge of the campus and had also served the campus in the role of hazardous waste disposal vendor. Alvin has already become a valuable member of the EH&S team.