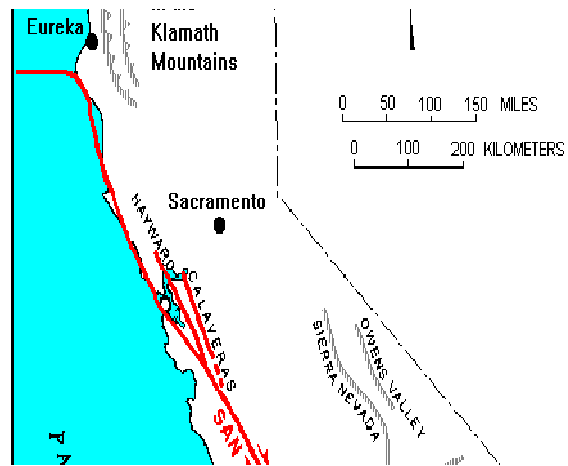


Living in Quake Country

We all know that Northern California is one of the best places to live on the Earth. We are all also aware that with the beauty of living in Northern California also runs the risk of being involved in a major earthquake.



We are all familiar with the San Andreas and Hayward Fault lines that run right through the Bay area. But there are thousands of recognized faults in California capable of causing earthquakes. Thankfully only a small number of these faults pose significant hazards.



Each year 100 to 150 earthquakes occur in the state that are big enough to be felt, but few of these cause any damage. On the average of once every 2 to 3 years a moderate earthquake strikes somewhere in the state. Major earthquakes occur in California about every 10 years on average.

Although we cannot predict when an earthquake will happen, we can prepare ourselves for when one does strike.



Start by identifying potential hazards in your home, such as hanging objects, objects on shelves and tables, and heavy furniture that can fall. Check your water heater to be sure it is strapped to the wall. Locate your houses main switches and valves for water, gas, and electricity and know how to turn them off. Check for structures that are not earthquake resistant and either strengthen them or eliminate them.

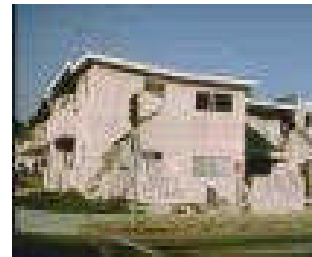
It is also a good practice to keep emergency supplies such as food, water, a first aid kit, a flashlight, and a battery powered radio.



When an earthquake does occur, avoid windows or items that can fall upon you. Remember to DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON. The old advice about standing in a doorway for cover is no longer advisable as the doorway in

newer housing is no stronger than any other part of the house and does little to protect you from falling debris.

After an earthquake, do not enter your home until you are sure that is safe. Be sure there are no gas leaks before using open flames or using electrical devices. Avoid using outdoor cooking equipment indoors as this will cause an increase on carbon monoxide. Be prepared for after-shocks.



With a little preparation and knowledge you can help minimize the damage an earthquake could do to you and your property.

The following are useful web links in helping you prepare for an earthquake.

www.seismic.ca.gov

www.conservation.ca.gov

www.earthquakeauthority.com

www.sonomacounty.org

www.fema.gov

www.oes.ca.gov

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/>

www.seaonc.org

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