






The "What If" Times


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OK, just a little more on earthquake preparedness in your home !


Do you have stuff "tied down", secured from tipping or falling over?

In an earthquake vital, heavy and important things can fall off the walls, tip over, start fires, etc.

-  *Is your water heater secured to the wall?
There are kits at Home Depot to secure it.*
-  *Are all your bookshelves attached securely to the walls so they cannot tip over. An average bookcase filled with books can weigh 200+ pounds.*
-  *Do you have a TV or bookshelf above the head of your bed? Can it fall on you....or your kids?*
-  *Do you have valuable, breakable collectables or nic-nacks on shelves?
There is a product called **Earthquake Wax**, that is used to secure such things to the shelf they sit on. It is a wax type material the secures it but it can be easily removed without leaving residue. Check the internet for it. Its cheap.*
-  *Do you have an "entertainment center" in your family room? Is it secured from falling on you or family members when things start moving about.*

 *If you have a pantry, do you have the fronts of the shelves covered so nothing falls off the shelves when it starts shaking? It makes for a big mess if you have to clean up afterward.*

 *Cabinet doors should be closed and latchable so the doors don't open when it starts shaking and stuff falls out. There are devices out there for securing the doors of cabinets. Even things like kid locks will work.*

 *Is your refrigerator secured from falling over? Yes, I know it is heavy, but you would be surprised what some shaking can do to even very heavy appliances.*

 *Do you know where the water shutoff is if a pipe breaks? Do you have a long "key" for turning off the water?*

 *Do you know how to shut off your propane or natural gas..ONLY shut if you detect a leak !*

So just some things to think about for your safety and well being in an emergency.

*I never cease to be amazed at what kind of information I can find on the internet. Just google **earthquake safety or disaster preparedness** and you will have reading material for the afternoon. (Yeah, I know, you are surprised that I know how to google stuff !)*

Easy reading from Emergency Management !

Have a great day