

## *Information to Broadcast Following an Earthquake*

### **After ground shaking is over:**

- Assess and respond to a range of secondary hazards, which may include:
  1. Fire hazards—use your fire extinguisher on any small fire in your vicinity and/or alert building occupants to this or other hazards and evacuate with your emergency supplies when told to do so.
  2. Chemical spills—evacuate the building and mark on the doorways that a chemical hazard exists in this building.
  3. Structural hazards and dangerous debris—assess building safety and evacuate or clean-up as needed for safe occupancy. Buildings that suffered cracking or excessive movement should not be occupied, because of the threat of failure during aftershocks.
- Account for personnel who were in your building.
- Check those around you for injuries, provide first aid as needed
- Gather and inventory your emergency supplies

### **Phone use**

Replace telephones that have bounced off the hook to help re-establish the phone system. Do not call friends or neighbors. **Call 911 only if you have a life-threatening emergency.**

### **Schools**

Be assured that schools will be implementing emergency plans and caring for students to the best of their abilities.

### **Roads**

Avoid all road travel. If you are at a safe location, plan on staying there for at least five hours, until roadways and bridges can be inspected, hazards identified, and emergency vehicles dispatched. If you need to abandon your vehicle, make sure to pull completely off the roadway.

### **Control Utilities in Buildings as Follows:**

## **Natural Gas**

Only shut off the natural gas to a building if you smell the odor or hear the hissing of a natural gas leak. To shut off, turn the in-line valve (up stream of the meter) 90 degrees, so that is perpendicular to the pipe, using a pipe wrench or crescent wrench. Those who have propane tanks can shut off the valve at the tank, if appropriate.

## **Electricity**

Until you are certain that the use of electricity is safe in your home or building, turn off most or all appliances and electrical circuits that supply your building. First turn off or unplug major appliances, turn off individual breakers, then turn off the main breaker. Turning off your appliances and electric circuits protects your equipment from electrical surges and minimizes the risk of electrically ignited fires.

## **Water**

Shutting off the water supply line to your home will prevent you from importing tainted water and will eliminate the possibility that your water supply (stored in your hot water tank, pipes, and behind each toilet) may drain away. **Do not** shut off your water if you are in a building with a sprinkler system or have no fire extinguishers and may need your water supply for fire suppression.

## **Check on your neighbors**

After you account for and care for your family members and establish a safe environment, check on and care for neighbors. Pay special attention to elderly, disabled, and medically fragile.

## **Emergency Services**

Fire, emergency medicine and police personnel are probably overwhelmed and may not be available for some time. Plan on being self-sufficient for a minimum of three days. Treat injuries and use emergency supplies to take care of those around you. If necessary, local authorities will be requesting state and federal assistance.

## **During ground shaking from aftershocks:**

- **DROP**, get your head below the level of the furniture.
- Seek **COVER** under a table, desk, or countertop or cover your head.
- **HOLD** onto the desk or table or hold your position.