



# PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY

It is important to take precautions to protect your property before an emergency situation arises. There are a few things you may want to consider to ensure that your property survives an emergency in the best condition possible.

## ***Preparing Your Home for an Emergency***

- Do a home hazard hunt with your family to spot any potential hazards or dangers around the house before an emergency situation.
- Have a qualified technician repair any defective electrical wiring or leaky gas connections.
- Make sure shelves, pictures and mirrors are secure on the wall and away from beds.
- Place large heavy objects on the bottom shelf.
- Secure the water heater by strapping it to structural members.
- Repair any cracks in the ceilings or home foundation.
- Store any flammable liquids (pesticides, oil, oily rags, etc.) away from heat sources and possibly in metal cans to prevent fires.
- Make sure your chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents are clean.
- Get a family emergency kit, and determine the best location to store it.
- Make an emergency plan as a family.

## ***Preparations for Specific Emergencies***

- Earthquakes
  - Bolt tall, heavy furniture (e.g., bookcases, dressers) to wall studs.
  - Install stronger latches on your cabinets.
- Fires
  - Check smoke alarms monthly and change batteries annually.
  - If you use oxygen equipment, make sure the shut-off switch is near your bed or chair.
- Floods
  - Make sure that your fuse box/electric panel is located above average flood level for your area.
  - Try to elevate appliances (e.g., furnace, water heater, washer and dryer) above average flood level for your area.
- Hurricanes
  - Install hurricane shutters.
  - If you do not have hurricane shutters, have enough precut plywood and tape to cover your windows and doors.
  - If you live in mobile housing, secure it to a foundation using chains or strong cables.



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## ***Preparations for Specific Emergencies (Continued)***

- Wildfires
  - Create a 30-foot safety zone around your home by removing or limiting vegetation.
  - Remove all debris in and around your property.
  - Use fire-resistant siding on your home.
  - Use safety glass for windows and doors if possible.
- Tornados
  - Identify a place in your home to take shelter in case of a tornado. A storm shelter or basement provides the best protection. Otherwise, choose an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
  - Have frequent tornado drills.

## ***During an Emergency***

- Turn off gas and electricity before you evacuate.
- If a hurricane, flood, thunderstorm or tornado warning has been issued, bring any outdoor furniture inside to prevent it from being moved by wind or flood waters.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

## ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—
  - <https://www.fema.gov/protect-your-property>
  - <https://www.ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow>
  - <https://www.fema.gov/small-business-toolkit/protect-your-property-or-business-disaster>
- Ready Army—[www.ready.army.mil](http://www.ready.army.mil)

**It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.**

