

Were You Prepared For The Earthquake??

Are you prepared for the next one!!

Many of us were not expecting an earthquake on Wednesday February 28th, 2001. Boy, was it a surprise!

The more you are prepared, the better you can act and minimize panic or confusion when an emergency occurs. No matter what the crisis; THINK before you ACT, then act swiftly to minimize your exposure to danger.

What Can We Do To Be Better Prepared:

Check For Home Hazards

Previous earthquakes show that you have a better chance of surviving and minimizing damage to your home if you take the following preventive measures now:

- 1) Make sure the house is bolted to its foundation
- 2) Make sure the walls are braced
- 3) Repair loose roof shingles
- 4) Make sure the chimneys are strong and well-braced
- 5) Tie down the water heater and other heavy appliances (stove, washer, dryer) that could break gas or water lines if they topple
- 6) Secure top-heavy furniture and shelving units to prevent tipping. Keep heavy items on lower shelves.
- 7) Affix mirrors, painting and other hanging objects securely, so they won't fall off hooks
- 8) Locate beds and chairs away from chimneys and windows. Don't hang heavy pictures and other items over beds. Closed curtains and blinds will help stop broken window glass from falling on beds.
- 9) Put anti-skid pads under TVs, VCRs, computers and small appliances or secure them with Velcro or other such product.

- 10) Use child-proof or safety latches on cupboards to stop contents from spilling out
- 11) Keep flammable items and household chemicals away from heat and where they are less likely to spill.
- 12) Put plywood up in the attic on joists around each chimney to help prevent bricks and mortar from coming through the ceiling. (Check clearances with your local fire department)

Discuss earthquake insurance with your insurance broker. Check your coverage - it could affect your financial ability to recover losses after an earthquake.

Prepare yourself and your family at home so they will know what to do, where to go, and how to cope until you are able to get home.

Find the First Aid and Earthquake Guides in your local phone book. Read the instructions and share them with your family.

Attend Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Classes that are offered.

Power Outage

- Remain calm and in place.
- Follow directions of Emergency Personnel
- If available turn on battery-powered radio to find out what is happening in your area
- Some buildings are equipped with public address systems to inform the public and employees of the emergency
- Emergency lighting is in most public buildings to assist evacuations.



During The Earthquake

- 1) Take cover underneath a desk or table. Protect your head and neck. Hold onto table leg.
- 2) Face away from windows and get out of their proximity.
- 3) Stay away from objects which could fall on you.
- 4) Stay where you are - do not run outside. Falling debris may cause injury.
- 5) If outdoors, stay in an open area. Do not enter the building.
- 6) If you are in a car - stop the car and stay in it. Avoid bridges, overpasses or underpasses, buildings or anything that could collapse on you and your car.

After The Earthquake

- A. Go to predetermined safe area - avoid glass and equipment.
- B. Be prepared for after-shocks. Do not return to your area until authorized.

Replace telephone handsets that have been shaken off, but DO NOT try to use the telephones except to report fires or medical emergencies. (Even if they do still work, they will be needed for emergency communications. Wait for and follow instructions from an Emergency Warden. If available turn on a battery-powered radio to learn what has happened. Tune to CKNW AM 980. Plans have been made for all essential Company functions to continue on an emergency basis. BCTV will restore normal operations as soon as possible. If your cable company has lost service, BCTV can be viewed with an antennae on Ch. 8 in the Lower Mainland.

Prepare An Emergency Survival Kit

Aim to have an emergency survival kit that will keep you and your family self-sufficient in your home for at least three (3) days. Choose ready-to-eat foods that your family likes. And select food that doesn't need refrigeration.

Emergency Food And Water Kit:

Water:

- At least one liter of drinking water per adult per day

Food:

- canned food: soups, stews, baked beans, pasta, meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruits
- crackers and biscuits
- honey, peanut butter, syrup, jam, salt and pepper, sugar, instant coffee, tea

Equipment:

- knives, forks, spoons
- disposable cups and plates
- manual can opener and bottle opener
- fuel stove and fuel. Don't use a barbecue indoors.
- waterproof matches and plastic garbage bags

Emergency Survival Kit:

- flashlight and batteries (in case the lights go out)
- radio and batteries
- spare batteries for flashlights and radio
- first aid kit
- candles and matches/lighter
- extra car keys and cash
- store important papers (wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds, passports, social insurance cards, health cards, savings and chequing account numbers, credit card numbers, important telephone numbers, family records - birth, marriage certificates) in a waterproof container
- food and bottle water
- clothing and footwear (one change of clothes per person)
- blankets or sleeping bag (one blanket or sleeping bag per person)
- toilet paper and other personal supplies
- medication
- backpack/duffel bag (or something else to carry the emergency survival kit in, in case you have to evacuate)
- whistle (in case you need to attract someone's attention)
- playing cards and games



Make sure everyone knows where to find the emergency survival kit. Keep a small survival kit in your car - a blanket, extra clothing, a candle in a deep can and matches can save your life.

Choose an out-of-province family contact - choose someone in another province to be your family's contact. After the disaster, call your family contact if you get separated from your family. Make sure everyone memorizes this person's name and telephone number. Teach members of your family where and how to shut off the water, electricity and gas supply. Make big easy-to-see signs saying Breaker Panel (or main circuit breaker), Gas and Main Water Supply. Put these signs near the breaker panel, gas valve and main water valve.

Check Your Home

Check for damage to your home. Remember the following points:

- 1) Use the flashlight - don't light matches or turn on the electrical switches if you suspect damage
- 2) Check for fires, fire hazards or other household hazards
- 3) Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows and get everyone outside quickly. ***If you turn off the gas, it should only be turned back on by a professional from the gas company.***
- 4) Shut off any other damaged utilities.
- 5) Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids immediately. Wear protective clothing. For major spills or leaks, call in professional help.
- 6) Confine or secure your pets.
- 7) Check on your neighbors, especially the elderly or people with disabilities

If you need any further assistance or information please contact:

City of Richmond

Emergency Preparedness Program
(604) 244-1282

BC Gas

(604) 298-1400

BC Hydro

(604) 431-9463

Emergency Social Services Program

1-800-585-9559

FAST (First Aid and Survival Technologies Ltd)

Emergency Preparedness and First Aid Kits for the Home
(604) 540-8300

Also the local community centers offer "Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Courses" which cover Personal Preparedness, Emergency First Aid, Rapid Damage Assessment and Utilities and Fire Suppression.

South Arm Community Center

(604) 718-8060

Thompson Community Center

(604) 718-8422

Cambie Community Center

(604) 233-8399

Note from the Editor

During the summer please keep an "eye" on your local school and community centre. Contact the police if you notice any suspicious people or activities such as graffiti or vandalism by calling the Richmond RCMP at 278-1212

We're sorry to see Dorothy DeCesare, Co-ordinator for the Diefenbaker area, leave. Dorothy has been with Block Watch for 6 years and increased the participation by 70% in her area. She enhanced the program around Diefenbaker School by co-ordinating weekend patrols. Thank you Dorothy for all of your hard work over the years. You will be missed!!

Have a safe a healthy summer!

Wendy Milford

Block Watch Coordinator



Going away this summer?

Now is the time of the year for everyone to be going away on Summer Vacation. Before You Go...

- Prepare an accurate and thorough inventory of all personal property. Store records off-site.
- Collect house keys from outside "hiding" places. Leave a house key and the name of the property insurance agent with a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Give your friend or neighbor your away phone number in case of an emergency
- Ask the friend or neighbor to use your garbage can, put it out on pick-up day, and put it away. Ensure that your mail and newspapers are picked up. Have the lawn mowed.
- Ask the friend or neighbor to be alert for suspicious people or vehicles.
- Put house lights and radio on 24 hour timers. Overlap timers: living area lights/radio turn off one hour before bedroom lights
- Trim shrubbery below window level
- Lock or bolt windows, doors and outside sliding doors
- Close all interior doors (to stop spread of fire and smoke)
- Check fire/smoke alarm wiring and/or batteries
- Check exposed wiring, cords and extension cords for fraying.
- Shut off water heater circuit breaker. Turn off water supply to water heater, water, and dishwasher.
- Unplug appliances with thermostats. Hide them from view. Turn home heating thermostat(s) down.
- Store valuables in safe deposit box. Engrave driver's licence number on markable valuables.
- Put drapes and blinds in a daytime position
- Remove combustibles stored against the side of the house
- Install deadbolt locks on doors
- Leave a car in the driveway
- Activate burglar alarms and remember to give your friend or neighbor the code.

Home Security Starts With You!!

The South Arm and Steveston Community Police Stations have developed the "THE HOME SECURITY CHECK PROGRAM" in response to a need in our Community.

Aim:

The Home Security Check Team want to reduce the risk of Break, Enter and Thefts to your home.

The Home Security Check Team will evaluate the environmental design of your home including:

- Lighting (inside and out)
- Landscaping
- Locks
- Doors
- Windows
- and much more!

Home Security Checks are available for all types of residences.

Any residence can be broken into, but every residence can be target hardened.

If you would like a home security check please contact the South Arm Community Police Station at 713-2300 or visit them at 8880 Williams Road, behind the South Arm Community Center or if you are in the Steveston area - please contact the Steveston Community Police Station at 713-2323 or visit them at 4371 Moncton Street, east of the Steveston Community Center.

Community Relations

At Richmond Savings, our business is building relationships. You see, we've been a part of Richmond for a long time now and we know it takes more than dollars and cents to build a community. It takes a commitment to supporting our neighbourhoods, local businesses, arts and events. At Richmond Savings we are proud to share the commitment.



Richmond Savings Foundation

WWW.blockwatch.com