

STORING EMERGENCY WATER

Why store water?

In a disaster such as a large magnitude earthquake, water systems may suffer damage and safe drinking water may not be available.

After the emergency has occurred, there will soon be a water supply shortage at the stores due to the overwhelming demand. In most cases, emergency workers will mitigate the greater part of an emergency at some point in a 72 hour period.

People can live a day or two without water, but not much longer.

Storing enough water for all the members of your family for three days is important so you have it on hand and are able to immediately care for your family. (One gallon of water per person, per day is the recommended quantity)

Water sources

Purchasing and storing bottled water *before* the emergency occurs is the best preparation.

When you store your water, write the date you stored the water right on the container with a marker. *Your emergency water supply should be replaced every six months.*

Frozen water can last indefinitely. If you have room in your freezer, you can freeze water. Freezing water can make your freezer work more efficiently and you can put the frozen water in your

refrigerator to keep your cold items fresh when the power is out.

Once your water thaws, you can drink it, but do not refreeze it. Replace frozen water that thaws.

Wells can also be damaged or contaminated during an earthquake or emergency. *Always treat well water after an emergency.*

Water from pools and hot tubs *is not* an option for drinking water. Water from these sources is maintained for body contact, not consumption. This water may be used for cleaning dishes, clothes and personal hygiene. It should not be used for drinking or food preparation.

As a last resort, you can use water from your water heater or the toilet tank. (Never use the water from the toilet bowl.) Water from these sources should be strained through a clean cloth before use.

Treating water

A "boil order" is an emergency alert announcement from the health department that the water company cannot guarantee the quality of the tap water. Tap water should be boiled.

To treat water to make it drinkable:

- Strain water through a *clean* handkerchief, paper towel or cloth.
- Boil water for 5 minutes and let it cool to room temperature before drinking.
- If you cannot boil the water, add bleach to each gallon of water. For each gallon add ¼ measuring teaspoon, or 1 milliliter, or 16 drops. Mix water and bleach solution thoroughly by stirring or shaking the container and let stand for 30 minutes before using.

The water should have a slight chlorine odor or taste. If not, repeat the dosage and let stand for an additional 15 minutes. If the water does not have an odor or taste of chlorine after the second treatment, DO NOT drink the water.

To improve the taste of boiled water, pour water from one container to another to aerate.

Water purification tablets are available from most drug stores. Follow directions on the package.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN AN EMERGENCY

What will happen?

In a disaster sewer lines will probably be damaged and become inoperable. Sewage may back up and broken water lines may become contaminated by sewage. Many disease causing organisms are spread through human excreta, including hepatitis, typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery and parasitic infections.

What should I do?

If stoppage in sewer lines is suspected or obvious, discontinue discharge of wastewater in house or building drains and stop flushing toilets. Avoid contact with any overflowing wastewater or sewerage. Rope off contaminated areas and post warning signs to prevent others from coming into contact with sewerage.

What can I use?

A dug latrine or trench 2'-3' deep can be used to bury human waste. Spread a thin layer of powdered lime* and a layer of earth each time it is used. (*Powdered lime is available in 50 lb. bags at building supply stores.)

Large extra-strength plastic bags may be placed in water-tight plastic or metal containers, with tight-fitting lids, or used as liners in toilets. Water mixed with a household disinfectant can be used for odor control. Final disposal can be by burying or sanitary sewer when notified by public officials.

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

**San Mateo Area Office of
Emergency Services:
650-363-4790**

**Federal Emergency Management
Association:
1-800-480-4532**

**American Red Cross: To be
announced by local media at time
of the disaster**

**Salvation Army:
1-800-433-7453**

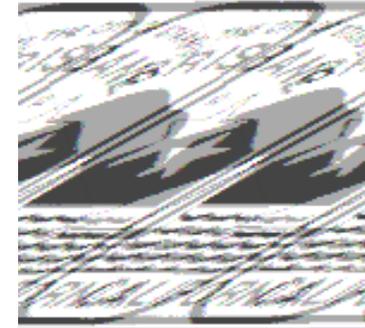
**Pacific Gas and Electric 24 hour
Emergency:
1-800-743-5000**

**Pacific Bell:
1-800-310-2355**

**CITY OF BRISBANE:
Fire Department: 415-657-4300
Police Department: 415-508-2181
City Hall: 415-508-2100
Parks and Recreation:
415-508-2142
Building Department:
415-508-2120
Public Works Department:
415-508-2130
Finance/Water Department:
415-508-2150**

CITY OF BRISBANE

Community Emergency Volunteers



CITIZEN'S BASIC GUIDE TO

EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE AND PREPARATION

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