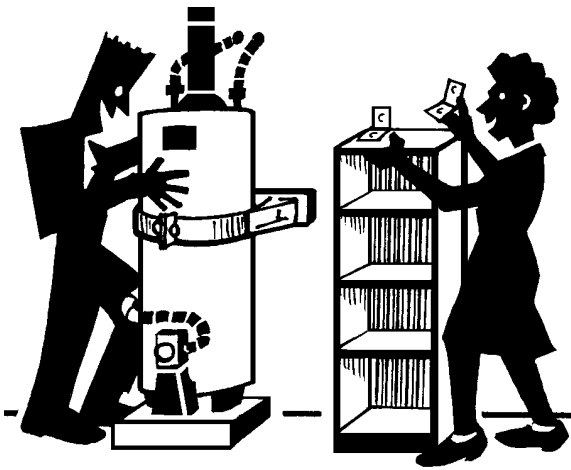


# ESP FOCUS

## Reduce Hazards



### WHY?

#### **Fewer hazards = fewer injuries!**

The majority of injuries caused by earthquakes are due to broken glass and falling objects both indoors and outdoors. Damage to gas lines, water mains, streets, bridges and buildings might impact your community and cause injuries.

The creation of a Hazard Reduction Team at home, in your neighborhood, at work and school can reduce the risk of death, injury and property losses. Take the next step in preparing for earthquakes and other disasters by forming your Hazard Reduction Team.

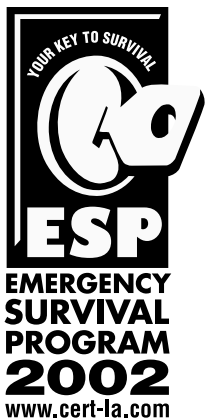
This ESP Focus Sheet provides basic information about identifying and reducing hazards. Future focus sheets will provide more information about creating a preparedness and response program.

#### **Select a Hazard Reduction Team**

The Planning Committee can start the hazard reduction effort by selecting members for a Hazard Reduction Team. Members of the team can include architects or engineers, building inspectors, contractors, electricians, plumbers, etc.

#### **Identify Hazards**

It will be their responsibility to identify, reduce and eliminate potential hazards in their areas of expertise. The team can start by doing a thorough hazard hunt to identify and prioritize structural, nonstructural and environmental hazards.



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# J U L Y

## Common Hazards

Nonstructural hazards can cause serious injuries and result in millions of dollars in property losses. Before the next earthquake, your Hazard Reduction Team should identify the hazards that pose the greatest threat to life and develop a

strategy to eliminate or reduce them. The table below lists common non-structural hazards in homes, apartments, business offices and schools.

Homes/Apartments	Businesses	Schools
Beds or desks under or near windows	Tall, heavy pieces of furniture or file cabinets that are not properly bolted or secured	Tall, heavy pieces of furniture or file cabinets that are not properly bolted or secured
Computers, stereos, televisions and other appliances that are not properly bolted or secured	Computers, stereos, televisions and other appliances that are not properly bolted or secured	Computers, stereos, televisions and other appliances that are not properly bolted or secured
Glass, heavy objects on shelves	Industrial storage racks that are not properly bolted or secured	Industrial storage racks that are not properly bolted or secured
Hanging plants or light fixtures that aren't secured	Potted plants, light fixtures or other items that aren't secured	Potted plants, light fixtures or other items that aren't secured
Mirrors and pictures over beds and desks, etc.	Heavy or potentially sharp wall decorations that aren't secured	Heavy or potentially sharp wall decorations that aren't secured
Propane tanks	Unsecured fire extinguishers	Unsecured fire extinguishers
Tall pieces of furniture that aren't secured	Raised computer floors that aren't braced	Aquariums, display cases that aren't secured
Unlatched cabinet doors	Unrestrained chemicals	Unrestrained chemicals
Water heaters that aren't bolted or braced	Generators, fuel tanks that aren't bolted or braced	Generators, fuel tanks that aren't bolted or braced

Structural damage resulting from an earthquake can cost tens of thousands of dollars to repair. Identifying and eliminating such hazards can prevent much of the potential damage. Common structural hazards include wood-frame buildings that are not bolted to their foundations and buildings constructed over car ports or open parking areas. Contact a structural engineer or another expert to help you identify and eliminate structural hazards.

Environmental hazards are also a threat to lives and property. They include overhead and downed utility lines, telephone lines, signs, trees, underground gas, sewage, and water lines. Members of the Hazard Reduction Team should work with representatives from local government and utility companies to reduce the risk of injuries and damage from environmental hazards.

Contact your local office of emergency services for more information on structural and nonstructural hazard reduction.



This action sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase emergency preparedness at home, in the community, at work and at school. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Southern California cities and counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.