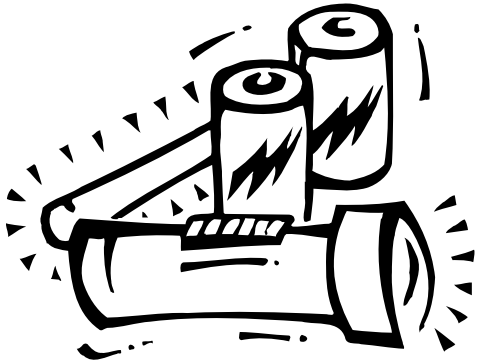




FAMILY STEPS TO SURVIVAL

Emergency Lighting



WHY?

You might be without power for hours!

Every home should have emergency flashlights and spare batteries.

The magnitude-6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994 damaged several Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power (DWP) facilities. The quake also damaged several high voltage transmission lines and caused some towers to fail completely.

As a result, much of the city was without power for the first time in its history. DWP personnel were able to restore service to 93 percent of the city within 24 hours, but it might take much longer in a larger, regional earthquake.

The quake also left an additional 750,000 customers in nearby cities and in cities tied to the power grid from other states without electricity for several hours to several days.

Don't be left in the dark. Before the next emergency strikes protect your family by obtaining battery-operated flashlights and extra batteries for your home, office and car. The reverse side of this Focus Sheet offers suggestions for emergency lighting.

Sources included the City of Los Angeles and the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA).

These are only suggestions for preparing your family. Use discretion and common sense in your preparations.

STEP 11

www.espfocus.org

Flashlights

Flashlights can provide psychological comfort and immediate emergency light when disasters or other emergencies disrupt power. They're good only when you can find them and the batteries work.

Place a flashlight in every room; secure each one to ensure accessibility. Maintain an ample supply of extra batteries. Check them every six months.

Lightsticks

Lightsticks also are an excellent source of emergency light and do not require electricity or batteries to operate. Maintain an ample supply for each family member.

Wall Units

Emergency wall units that plug into electrical sockets and activate when electricity is disrupted also can provide emergency light during power outages.

Radios

Reliable information and instructions are essential after a damaging disaster or emergency. Protect yourself and your family by including battery-operated portable radios or televisions and extra batteries in your emergency preparedness kits.

Special Needs

Electrical outages also can impact persons with hearing impairments and others with special needs. Prepare NOW by including the following, as appropriate, in your emergency kits:

- Extra batteries for hearing aids, TDDs, wheelchairs
- Generator for life-safety equipment

Checking Utilities

Disasters can also damage utility lines and appliances, putting your home at risk to fire.

Before the next emergency:

- Show responsible family members the location of your electrical service panel and teach them how to turn off service.
- Conduct family drills and simulate turning off electricity to test family skills.

After the next emergency:

- Determine if electricity is out only in your home or throughout the neighborhood.
- Check for damaged appliances, as well as fallen, loose or damaged electrical wires.
- Disconnect damaged appliances.
- Stop power flow at the service panel if your wiring is damaged.
- Turn off gas only if you hear or smell a leak.
- Reenergize circuits by turning on the main panel first and then each breaker individually.
- Call the gas company to restore service. Do not turn the gas back on yourself.

Sources included "Earthquake Awareness," Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Safety tip:

Do not use candles, hurricane lamps, lanterns and other objects that rely on an open flame for lighting. Large and even moderate aftershocks that usually accompany damaging earthquakes can topple these items and cause fire. Items with open flames also can trigger explosions by igniting leaking gas.

This project was supported by FY07 UASI funding awarded by the California Emergency Management Agency, through FEMA/DHS.



This information sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase home, neighborhood, business and school emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and representatives from Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center and the American Red Cross assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.