

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

AND EVACUATION GUIDE



**ALL OUTDOOR FIRES
PROHIBITED DURING
FIRE SEASON**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT YOUR FIRE DEPT.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEEKS BAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FUNDING PROVIDED BY:
CAL FIRE GRANT



Greetings Community Members,

Every community has certain natural and manmade hazards, and the Tahoe Basin is no different. Experts in various fields strive to identify these hazards and emergency services managers work to develop response and mitigation strategies. Whether you are visiting for the day or have lived here for decades, you are residing in a high-sierra environment that is prone to rapidly changing weather and extreme seasonal variations, which combined with the Lake Tahoe Basin's unique landscape makes for a myriad of potential hazards. This Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide has been developed to assist you in preparing for specific emergency situations. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the guide and the index as it has three main components, **emergent**, **evacuation** and **educational**. The emergent section contains guidance pertaining to an immediate threat, the evacuation map identifies potential routes out of the area (in an emergency law enforcement officials will provide specific routing based on the emergency) and the education section has detailed information and hazard specific planning suggestions. Your local fire districts, the State Forestry & Fire Protection agency and county emergency managers are constantly updating emergency plans and we need you to do the same. Have a family emergency and communications plan that does not rely on local utilities, which may not be available during an emergency. After reviewing this guide and developing your family or businesses emergency plan, this guide has been provided to you in a convenient plastic sheath with a magnet for you to place in a prominent location (such as the outside of the refrigerator or filing cabinet) where it can be readily accessed during an emergency.



Michael Schwartz *George Morris III* *Tim Alameda*
North Tahoe Fire PD *CAL FIRE NEU* *Meeks Bay Fire PD*

The North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Board of Directors and staff want you to be as prepared as possible during an emergency. Check our agencies web sites and follow us on social media for valuable tips and up to date information. Your questions are welcome and input is valued, so please contact us via the information on the back cover as needed.

Stay safe and be prepared,

Michael Schwartz
 Fire Chief, NTFPD

George Morris III
 Fire Chief, NEU – Unit CAL FIRE

Timothy Alameda
 Fire Chief, MBFPD



**EMERGENT
 INFORMATION**



**EVACUATION
 INFORMATION**



**EDUCATIONAL
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HIGHWAY 267
TO INTERSTATE 80

HIGHWAY 89
TO INTERSTATE 80

HIGHWAY 28
TO HIGHWAY 431

N
**LAKE
TAHOE**

IF YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME

- > If you leave your home **turn on a porch light and secure your residence.**
- > **Drive slowly**, first responders and emergency equipment might be on the roadway. If you must drive through smoke – turn on your headlights and stay as far to the right as possible.

A TO HIGHWAY 50	B TO INTERSTATE 80	F FIRE STATION
C TO INTERSTATE 80	D TO HIGHWAY 431	S SHERIFF

EVACUATION ROUTES

Local officials have pre-determined four routes to drive out of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District and Meeks Bay Fire Protection District to be used in the event of a disaster. The type of emergency will determine which route will be used. Officials will notify residents through the use of media, telephone and if possible, by first responders.

- > **Evacuation Route A**
Highway 89 towards South Shore to Highway 50
- > **Evacuation Route B**
Highway 28 towards Tahoe City then north on Highway 89 to Interstate 80
- > **Evacuation Route C**
Highway 28 towards Kings Beach then Highway 267 to Interstate 80
- > **Evacuation Route D**
Highway 28 to Highway 431

Plan at least two ways out of your neighborhood and mark the route on this map.

HIGHWAY 89
TO HIGHWAY 50

EL DORADO
COUNTY



Since no single method of communication is failsafe, regional public safety officials use a combination of four methods to keep the public informed during an emergency.

- › 1. Local government Public Information Officers (PIO) gather key information from the Incident Commander, first responders and elected officials, producing press releases that are then disseminated to social media and are broadcast by local media outlets and on NTFPD AM station 1630 to keep the public informed during an emergency.
- › 2. Emergency Managers can initiate the Emergency Alert System (EAS). This system interrupts local radio and television broadcasts with emergency alerts for instructions to the public.
- › 3. First Responders and credentialed volunteers (CEIT & CERT) will assist in alerting citizens of impending hazards by door to door canvassing of neighborhoods, answering phone calls at fire stations, providing information tables at local markets, directing traffic in evacuations.
- › 4. The e-Emergency Notification Phone System can be used to automatically telephone residents and relay emergency information.


The Emergency Notification Phone System is a computer system that calls telephones in particular geographic areas, and plays a recorded message. However, there are two issues to consider, availability of electric utility power, and ability of the system to contact a particular type of telephone.

In an emergency, the electric utility power may fail at any time. This means that any telephone that relies on power to function will not work.

The Emergency Notification Phone System can only contact hardwired telephones (so-called “wire line” or “PSTN” phones) which are serviced by SBC, AT&T, or another local telephone company. You may also pre-register cell phone numbers with emergency alert services through Placer or El Dorado County.

In an Emergency, tune to the EAS Local Primary Stations:

NTFPD 1630AM	KUNR 88.7FM	KOWL 1490AM	KRLT 93.9FM	KTKE 101.5FM
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FOLLOW US on Facebook at www.ntfire.net 

ENROLL IN Placer County Alert, www.placer-alert.org/

ENROLL IN El Dorado County Alert, www.ready.edso.org/

TUNE IN for North Tahoe Fire Critical Emergency Information on 1630AM Radio (WQMS 260)

PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES

WHEN THERE IS AN ACTIVE EMERGENCY, PLEASE TUNE IN TO 1630AM ON YOUR RADIO DIAL.

ANY LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL 911.

	North Tahoe Fire Protection District	530-583-6911	www.ntfire.net
	Meeks Bay Fire Protection District	530-525-7548	www.meeksbayfire.com
	Placer County Sheriff's Office	530-583-6300	www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Sheriff.aspx
	El Dorado County Sheriff's Office	530-621-5655	www.edcgov.us/Sheriff/
	Placer County Office of Emergency Services	www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CEO/Emergency.aspx 530-886-5300 (During major incident responses) 530-886-4600 (During non-incident periods)	
	El Dorado County Office of Emergency Services	www.edcgov.us/Government/Sheriff/Divisions/Support/Office_of_Emergency_Services_(OES).aspx 530-626-4911	
	American Red Cross (Sacramento Office)	916-993-7070	www.redcross.org/ca/sacramento
	National Weather Service	775-673-8100	www.weather.gov/reno
	Caltrans	530-426-7600	www.dot.ca.gov
	USFS-Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	530-543-2600	www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu/
	CAL FIRE-Auburn Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit	530-889-0111	www.readyforwildfire.org
	California – Governor's Office of Emergency Services	916-845-8510	www.caloes.ca.gov/

MAKE A PLAN IF YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR HOME

- Begin evacuation immediately** when the official warning is issued. Your life might be in danger, do not waste time leaving your home.
- Have a place to go** such as the home of a family member or friend, or a shelter. Plan your route before the disaster.
Listen to the radio for updates on the situation.
- Notify family or friends** of your plans, if possible. Tell them when you are leaving and where you are going.
- Use travel routes** specified by local officials (see attached map for routes). Know where you are going before you leave.
- Bring extra cash**. Banks may be closed, ATMs may not work.
- Take your disaster supplies kit**.
- Secure and lock** your home before you leave.
- Bring toys**, books and games for entertainment.
- If driving in smoke**, turn on headlights, move as far to the right as possible and drive slowly.
- When you arrive** at a shelter make sure you register with official personnel.
- Don't panic**, drive slowly and arrive safely at your destination.



MAKE A PLAN IF YOU MUST STAY AND SHELTER IN PLACE.

- › **If evacuation routes are blocked** you will be required to stay in your home during the fire. If you shelter in place, stay away from windows, move to an interior room or hallway. If the house does catch fire there will still be time to get out. Do not try and leave until the fire has passed and you can safely drive to a shelter location.
- › **Have your disaster supplies kit** in hand, including pet supplies.
- › You need to **store at least a three-day supply** of water for each person in your household. Stored water should be changed every six months.
- › **Notify family or friends** of the situation if possible.
- › **Work with neighbors** to develop a neighborhood plan that keeps everyone informed.
- › Listen to your battery operated **radio for emergency updates**.
- › Once you have decided to stay, **remain in your home** until the emergency is over.

PRE-EVACUATION PREPARATION STEPS

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow these checklists (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

OUTSIDE

- › Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them away from house.
- › Turn off propane tanks.
- › Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- › Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- › **Don't** leave sprinklers on or water running; they can affect critical water pressures.
- › Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- › Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- › Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- › Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- › Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- › Monitor your property and the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened and need to leave.
- › Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- › Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- › Remove flammable window shades and curtains. Close metal shutters.
- › Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- › Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- › Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- › Shut off the air conditioning.

ANIMALS

- › Locate your pets and keep them secure nearby.
- › Prepare animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.



TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY WHEN WILDFIRE STRIKES.

Follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to go!

1. Review your Evacuation Checklist.
2. Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle.
3. Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long-sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandana for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
4. Locate your pets and take them with you.

WHEN TO EVACUATE

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be ordered by authorities to leave. Evacuating early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion, and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire, they may not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

- › Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
- › Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
- › You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- › You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

The terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as "Precautionary" and "Immediate Threat." These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.



Prepare to care for yourself, your family and pets for a duration of at least three days and up to seven days. The best time to assemble a disaster supplies kit is well before you need it. Most of these items are already in your home, it is matter of assembling them before a disaster occurs.

- › Water – One gallon per person and per pet for each day. Store water in unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- › Food – A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned foods with a hand-operated can opener.
- › Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel.
- › First Aid Kit, a first aid book and required prescription medications.
- › Blankets or sleeping bags – at least one per person.
- › Battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- › Fire extinguisher – ABC type.
- › Credit cards, cash and change.
- › An extra set of car and house keys.
- › Extra pair of eyeglasses.
- › Toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and toilet paper.
- › A list of family physicians.
- › A list of important family information including phone numbers.
- › Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.

SANITATION SUPPLIES

- › Large plastic trash bags for waste, tarps and rain ponchos.
- › Large trash cans.
- › Bar soap and liquid detergent.
- › Household bleach.
- › Rubber gloves.

Stocking up now on emergency supplies can add to your family's safety and comfort during and after a disaster. Store enough supplies for at least three days, preferably as many as seven days.



RED FLAG WARNINGS

The National Weather Service (NWS) offices issue [Fire Weather Watches](#) and [Red Flag Warnings](#) for critical fire weather patterns that contribute to the extreme fire danger and/or fire behavior.

[A Fire Weather Watch](#) is used to alert agencies to the high potential for development of a Red Flag event in the 12-72 hour time frame. The Watch may be issued for all or selected portions of a fire weather zone. A watch may be issued in the first 12 hour time period only for an expected dry thunderstorm event.

[Red Flag Warning/Fire Weather Watches](#) in discussions and headlines – In the discussion portion of the Fire Planning Forecast (FWF), NWS offices will mention critical weather patterns that might lead to conditions approaching or exceeding Red Flag criteria through the extended forecast. This will assist fire agencies in their allocating and moving resources in anticipation of increased fire activity. Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings will be headlined in spot forecasts, the fire weather narrative, and appropriate zone sections within the fire weather planning forecast. The headline will be in the same format as on the RFW product itself.

WHEN A WILDLAND FIRE OCCURS

- › [Stay calm and do not panic.](#) You will think more rationally if you remain calm. Keep family members and pets together. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirts made from natural fibers, and boots or sturdy shoes for protection from the heat. If advised to evacuate, DO SO IMMEDIATELY. Drive slowly, turn on your vehicle headlights and stay as far to the right of the road as possible.



WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

The term defensible space refers to the area between a home and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been managed to reduce the wildfire threat and allow firefighters to effectively defend the house. Defensible space improves the likelihood of a home surviving in the event of a wildfire.

STEP ONE:

Determine the size of an effective defensible space.

STEP TWO:

Remove dead vegetation.

STEP THREE:

Create a separation between trees and shrubs.

STEP FOUR:

Remove ladder fuels.

STEP FIVE:

Create a Lean, Clean and Green Area extending 5 feet to 30 feet from the house.

STEP SIX:

Create a noncombustible area at least 5 feet wide around the base of the house.

STEP SEVEN:

Maintain the Defensible Space Zone.

Please visit LivingWithFire.info to learn more about the above steps.

NONCOMBUSTIBLE AREA – ZONE ONE:

Zone One extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc. This area needs to have a very low potential for ignition from flying embers. Remove all dead or dying vegetation. Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from structures and other trees. Remove dried leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof, and rain gutters. Relocate woodpiles or other combustible materials into Zone Two. Remove combustible material and vegetation from around and under decks. Remove or prune vegetation near windows. Remove “ladder fuels” (low vegetation that allows a fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Reduce the height of low-level vegetation and/or trim low tree branches.



LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN AREA – ZONE TWO:

Zone Two extends 30 to 100 feet out from buildings, structures, and decks. You can minimize the chance of fire jumping from plant to plant or other combustibles by removing dead material and removing, separating, and/or thinning vegetation. The minimum spacing between vegetation is three times the dimension of the plant or other combustibles.

Please visit ReadyForWildfire.org to learn more about wildfire prevention and defensible space.

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY TIPS – TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

FACT: Hundreds of people die each year in the United States due to lightning, flash floods, powerful thunderstorm winds, and winter storms or winter cold. Additionally, thousands of people are injured by these weather events each year. Will it happen to you?

FACT: If you are aware of what weather event is about to impact your area, you are more likely to survive such an event. To stay on top of the weather, utilize NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receiver units that can be purchased at most electronic stores. Make sure the model you purchase has a battery-backup. The programmable types allow you to selectively screen out those county warnings you are not interested in. Most homes have a smoke detector; shouldn't your home also have a weather radio?

WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE SEVERE WEATHER STRIKES:

1. Develop a disaster plan for you and your family at home, work, school, and when outdoors. The American Red Cross offers planning tips and information on putting together a disaster supplies kit at <http://www.redcross.org>.
2. Identify a safe place to take shelter. Information on how to build a Safe Room in your home or school is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.ready.gov/shelter>.
3. Know the county in which you live or visit – and in what part of that county you are located. The National Weather Service issues severe weather warnings on a county basis, or for a portion of a county. Local counties within our area include Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, and Washoe.
4. Keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.
5. Have a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receiver unit with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warning bulletins.
6. National Weather Service (NWS) watches and warnings are also available on the Internet. Select your local NWS office at <http://www.weather.gov>, go to the NWS Home Page at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>, or for Reno, go to <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/rev/>.
7. Listen to commercial radio or television/cable TV for weather information.
8. Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors. Watch for signs of approaching storms.
9. If severe weather threatens, check on people who are elderly, very young, or physically or mentally disabled. Don't forget about pets.

IS IT A WATCH OR IS IT A WARNING?

A watch is intended to provide lead time for those who need to set their plans in motion. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible in and close to the watch area.

A warning means that weather conditions pose a threat to life or property; people in the path of the hazard need to take protective action.

These terms are used for Thunderstorms, Flashfloods, Fire Weather and Winter Storms.

WINTER STORMS – WATCHES & WARNINGS

Winter Storm Watch – Conditions are favorable for hazardous winter weather conditions including heavy snow, blizzard conditions, significant accumulations of freezing rain or sleet, and dangerous wind chills. The watches are usually issued 12 to 36 hours in advance.

Winter Storm Warning – Hazardous winter weather conditions that pose a threat to life and/or property are occurring, imminent, or likely. The term winter storm warning is used for a combination of two or more of the following winter weather events: heavy snow, freezing rain, sleet, and strong winds. The following event-specific warnings are issued for a single weather hazard: blizzard warning, heavy snow warning or ice storm warning.

Snow Advisory – Snowfall roughly half the amount required for a winter storm warning.

Blizzard Warning – Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 35 miles per hour or greater with considerable falling and/or blowing snow. Visibility will be reduced to 1/4 mile or less for a period of three hours or more.

EVACUATION TERMS

Evacuation Advisory – An advisory is issued when there is reason to believe that the emergency will escalate and require mandatory evacuations. An advisory is meant to give residents as much time as possible to prepare transportation arrangements.

Voluntary Evacuation – Is used when an area is going to be impacted and residents are willing and able to leave before the situation gets worse. This is helpful for residents with medical issues, people with pets and those who will have difficulty making travel arrangements. Under this evacuation order you do not have to leave the area.

Mandatory Evacuation – You MUST leave the area IMMEDIATELY, your life is in danger. Under these circumstances the situation is severe and you may not have time to gather special belongings or paperwork, every minute you delay could increase your danger. Please do not take this order lightly; it is for your safety. Remember to follow any instruction you receive from a law enforcement or fire officer.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH AN AVALANCHE

Snow avalanches are a natural phenomena resulting from the interaction of site-specific weather, terrain, and snowpack conditions. Because these factors are constantly changing, precise prediction of when destructive avalanches will occur is limited.



BEFORE AN AVALANCHE

- › Most avalanches occur on slopes with inclinations between 30° and 45°. Slopes on leeward sides of windy ridges are likely areas for large accumulations of wind blown snow to form slabs. If there are no terrain features or trees to anchor the snow in place, these slopes become “starting zones” for slab avalanches.

DURING AN AVALANCHE

- › Warn those around you of the impending slide.
- › Try and get out of the way if possible; if on skis, move out diagonally. If on a snowmobile, move downhill.
- › Drop anything in your hands that will drag you down. Use a “swimming” motion thrusting upward to try and stay near the surface of the snow.
- › Try to keep your arms and hands moving so the instant the avalanche stops you can make an air pocket in front of your face by punching the snow around you before it sets.
- › If you are in a house, try and move to the opposite side of the structure of the slide and find a door or window to make an escape.

AFTER AN AVALANCHE

- › The INSTANT the avalanche stops try to maintain an air pocket in front of your face by using your hands and arms to punch in the snow and make a pocket of air. Most deaths are due to suffocation, the snow will set very quickly.
- › If you are lucky enough to be near the surface, try and stick out an arm or a leg so that rescuers can find you.
- › Do not panic, keep your breathing steady to help preserve your air space and help your body conserve energy.
- › If someone around you is caught in an avalanche, watch as they are carried downhill, paying particular attention to the last point you saw them. If possible mark the spot so that rescuers can reduce search time.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A FLOOD EVENT

Flash floods, abundant rain, and rain-on-snow events are the three types of flood phenomena that occur throughout the state. At Lake Tahoe these events cause small creeks to overflow and homes in low lying areas can experience some localized flooding.

BEFORE A FLOOD

- › *Check drains and drainage* to divert water away from your home. Build barriers and landscape around your home or buildings to reduce or stop floodwaters and mud from entering. Seal lower walls with waterproofing compounds and install “check valves” in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into drains.

DURING A FLOOD

- › *Listen for updates from the radio and television*. Know the location for sandbags and sand. Move valuables out of the path of water or mud. Contact local authorities and notify them of the location of the flooding. If necessary, turn off utilities before problems escalate.
- › *If water is diverted* check with neighboring properties to ensure that additional damage is not occurring.

AFTER THE FLOOD

- › *Prior to entering a building, check for structural damage*. Check the foundation walls and posts. Make sure it is not in danger of collapsing. Watch for electrical shorts or live wires before making certain that the main power switch is turned off. Remove all floodwaters from under structures as soon as possible.



WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN EARTHQUAKE

During an earthquake the “solid” earth moves like the deck of a ship. The actual movement of the ground is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most casualties result from falling objects and debris because the shocks can shake, damage or demolish buildings. Earthquakes may also trigger landslides, cause fires and disrupt utilities.

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

- › [Check your home for potential hazards](#). Place large and heavy objects on lower shelves. Securely fasten shelves to walls. Brace or anchor high or top-heavy objects. Strap water heaters to keep them from falling.
- › [Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas, and water](#) at main switches and valves. Have the proper tools close by so that there is no delay when it is time to shut off the utilities.
- › [Hold occasional drills](#) so each member of your household knows what to do in an earthquake.
- › Have your Disaster Supply Kit [ready and accessible](#).

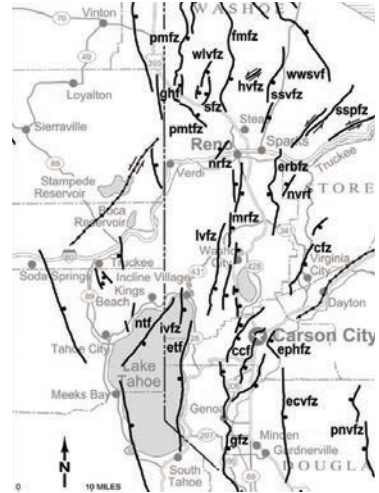


Image courtesy of University of Nevada Seismology Department

WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- › [First and foremost, stay calm](#). Think through the consequences of any action you take.
- › [If you are inside, stay inside](#); take cover under a heavy desk or table. Stand under a supported doorway or along an inside wall away from any windows.
- › [If you are outside, stay there](#); stay away from tall buildings, look up and watch for falling objects. If you are in a moving car, safely stop the car and remain inside.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- › [Check yourself and people nearby for injuries](#). Provide first aid if needed. Be prepared for additional earthquake shocks called “aftershocks”. These are smaller than the main shock, some may be large enough to cause additional damage or bring weakened structures down.
- › [Check gas, electric, and water lines](#). If damaged, shut off valves. Turn off appliances. Do not light matches or candles. Check for natural gas leaks by odor only. If a gas leak is detected, open all windows and doors, leave immediately and do not re-enter the building until a utility official says it is safe.
- › [Check your home for damage](#), approach chimneys with caution. If there is any question of safety leave your home and do not re-enter until the item can be checked. Open any closet or cupboard cautiously due to falling objects.
- › [Do not flush toilets](#) until sewer lines are checked.
- › [Check with neighbors](#) to see if your assistance is needed.

TSUNAMI AT LAKE TAHOE?

Earthquake-caused large waves in a lake or closed body of water is called seiche (pronounced say'sh). The word originates in a Swiss French dialect word that means "to sway back and forth". Due to Lake Tahoe's size, depth and close proximity to earthquake faults it is at risk for a seiche. A large earthquake could cause a wave up to 33 feet in height to come ashore at any location around the lake. These waves could move back and forth across the lake for many hours.



WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- › ***If you are close to the lake*** or on the beach during an earthquake, move immediately to higher ground. ***If a seiche occurs it will happen quickly.***
- › ***If you live in a home near the lake,*** move away from windows and doors that face the lake. If possible move to an upstairs location. Do not go outside after an earthquake until you are certain that there is no seiche approaching.
- › ***If you are ordered to evacuate,*** don't waste time, take an evacuation kit and leave. Do not return until the authorities have given the all clear.

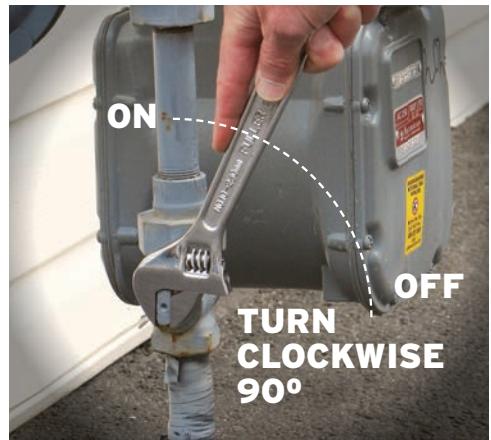
MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

- › **Meet with household members** – Explain the dangers to children and your emergency plans. Work with them as a team to prepare your family to deal with emergencies.
- › **Discuss** what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- › **Post emergency telephone numbers** near telephones.
- › **Learn** how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at your home.
- › **Decide where to meet** – in the event of an emergency; you may become separated from family members. Choose a place right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire. Choose a location outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home.
- › **Choose an “Out-of-Town” contact** – Ask an out-of-town friend or relative to be your contact in the event of a disaster. Everyone must know the contact’s phone number. It is often easier to make a long distance phone call than a local call from a disaster area.
- › **Teach children** how to make long distance telephone calls.
- › **Complete a family communications plan** – Your plan should include contact information for family members, work and school.
- › **Escape routes and safe places** – In a fire or other emergency, you may need to evacuate very quickly. Be ready to get out fast. Be sure everyone in your family knows the best escape routes out of your home as well as where the safe places are in your home for each type of disaster. Draw a Home Family Escape Plan with your family outlining two escape routes from each room.

HOW TO TURN OFF GAS

Make sure all family members know how and when to shut off the gas supply.

- › **If you smell gas** after an earthquake, shut off the main gas valve.
- › **Use a wrench** to turn the valve either way until it is perpendicular to the pipe.
- › **Attach the wrench** to the gas meter with a wire.



DEVELOP A PET PLAN

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do for your pets is to evacuate them, too. If you are away from your home when your neighborhood is evacuated you will not be allowed back to retrieve your pet, so make arrangements with neighbors before a disaster strikes.



Pets are not allowed at public shelters for health and space reasons, so arrangements must be made in advance for pets. Pets might not be allowed in hotels or motels so planning is crucial.

- › Make sure that your [pets are current on their vaccinations](#). Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- › Keep a [collar with identification](#) on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.
- › If possible, have a properly-sized [pet carrier for each animal](#).
- › Have a supply of [pet food, water and any required medications](#).

Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have a proper identification collar, proper identification on all belongings, leash, food bowl, food and water.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Certain individuals in the community may have special problems to deal with in a disaster, including the elderly, people with medical conditions, and people with certain disabilities (mobility, visually impaired, hearing impaired, developmental or cognitive disabilities). If you have a family member who is one of these individuals, there are special considerations to think about and plan for before a disaster occurs.

If the family member has medications or equipment that they are dependent on, plan to bring those items with you if an evacuation is necessary. Shelters will not have additional medication or medical equipment available. Documentation about insurance and medical conditions should also accompany the person.

Plan ahead for transportation needs for family members with special needs. Transportation for the general public in an emergency evacuation may not be suitable for their situation.

If the family member has special dietary needs, bring these special foods and supplements with you.

Many special needs populations are easily upset and stressed by sudden and frightening changes. Plans should be made to ensure that a caregiver or trusted family member is able to stay with them at all times during an evacuation.

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