

# What To Do If Disaster Strikes

## BE PREPARED...

- Have a Family Disaster Plan. (See the box below for information about this plan). For this plan to be effective, it is essential that you practice it prior to a disaster.
- Have a Disaster Supply Kit with enough food and water for every member of your household, including your pets, to last for at least 72 hours.
- Take advantage of disaster preparedness training offered by the City of Culver City, such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

## IF DISASTER STRIKES...

- Remain calm.
- Put your Family Disaster Plan into action (this plan includes caring for your pets).
- Verify that everyone is “OK.” If they are okay, place this “**OK Sign**” in a location most visible from the public right-of-way (e.g., front window, front door, garage door). If they are not okay, do not post this sign. Safety personnel will be patrolling the area as soon as possible to assist individuals in need of help.
- Administer first aid if it is needed. If someone is **seriously** injured, call 911. (Remember that 911 may be busy so it is important to be prepared to handle as much as you can on your own).

- Listen to your battery-powered radio for news and instructions.
  - If advised to evacuate, put on protective clothing and sturdy shoes, grab your Disaster Supply Kit, and follow the directions provided.
  - If you are not advised to evacuate, remain at home (see the following instructions).

## REMAINING AT HOME...

- Ensure it is safe to remain in your home. Do not light matches or turn on electrical switches. Use a flashlight until you are sure it is safe.
- Check for damage/safety hazards:
  - Sniff for gas leaks, starting at the water heater. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve and open your windows.
  - Check for fires, fire hazards (e.g., spilled gasoline or other flammable liquids), and other household hazards (e.g., broken glass or spilled medications).
  - If you suspect a gas leak, have a fire, or identify another hazard that you cannot safely contain or clean up, evacuate everyone immediately.

## REMEMBER TO...

- Call a pre-designated, out-of-state contact to let them know your status. Given the phone lines may be out-of-service or busy as a result of the disaster, this person can let other family members and friends who may not be able to reach you know you are okay.
- Do not use the telephone again unless it is for a life-threatening emergency. It is important to leave the telephone lines open for individuals in need of immediate medical attention. (Do not be alarmed if your landline telephone or cell phone has no service. In the event of a disaster, this is a strong possibility).
- Check on and assist your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Follow all instructions given to you by safety personnel.

For more information about disaster preparedness (including obtaining a copy of the Family Disaster Plan and a list of recommended Disaster Supply Kit items), visit the City’s website at [www.culvercity.org](http://www.culvercity.org) or call the Culver City Fire Department at (310) 253-5925.

**OK**