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# City of Laguna Beach Disaster Preparedness



## Earthquakes

Earthquakes can happen at any time of year and occur without warning.

### Before: Prepare

- Secure items that might fall and cause injuries (e.g., bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures).
- Practice how to Drop, Cover, and Hold On.
- Store critical supplies and documents.
- Plan how you will communicate with family members.
- Do a home hazard hunt for potential items that might fall.

### During: Survive

- **DROP** down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn't knock you down.
- **COVER** your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris. If you are in danger from falling objects, and you can move safely, crawl to a safe place or seek cover (e.g., under a desk).
- **HOLD On** to any sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops.

### After: Recover

- If you are in a damaged building and there is a safe way out, leave and go to an open space.
- If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust.
- If you have a cell phone, use it to call or text for help.
- Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle, if you have one, so that rescuers can locate you.

Emergencies can happen at any time. A wildfire could spread which requires evacuations or an unexpected flood closes roads to a neighborhood. In these instances, AlertOC is a critical link for residents and businesses to immediately learn of any required actions.

All Laguna Beach home phone numbers are already pre-registered in the system. Citizens are encouraged to register their cell phones, text numbers, e-mail addresses, work numbers, and TDD/TTY devices into the system. Register them today at [www.AlertOC.com](http://www.AlertOC.com).

If you feel unsafe during a disaster, do not wait for the call to evacuate.

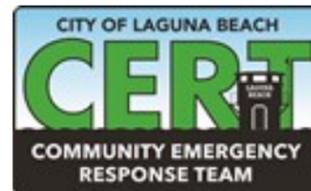
## Go Bag Checklist

- ◇ Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ◇ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Can opener if necessary
- ◇ Batter-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ◇ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ◇ First aid kit
- ◇ Whistle to signal for help
- ◇ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties
- ◇ Cash
- ◇ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities



Don't forget about the people who depend on you. Are there children, older adults, people with disabilities, special medical needs, or pets in your life?

These groups are more vulnerable during a disaster, and your emergency plan should take their needs into consideration.



**Practice** - Everyone should know what to do in an earthquake and should practice how to DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON. Join the Great ShakeOut and America's PrepareAthon to practice how to protect yourself and to help spread the word. Visit [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) and [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to learn more. Learn and practice first aid skills and emergency response skills through training such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program. For more information about CERT check the City's website, [www.lagunabeachcity.net](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net) under the Police Department and Emergency Preparedness.

# Floods

The Safest way to survive a flood is to evacuate the area if advised to leave



**Property Protection** - Your goal now, before flooding occurs, is to reduce the risk of damage to structures from flooding.

- Sand bag flood prone areas
- Clear out rain gutters
- Know how to turn off your utilities in case you are required to do so
- Ensure all landscape and property drains are cleared and functioning
- While not required, flood insurance is recommended for flood prone properties

**Practice** - How you will communicate with your family members. In case you are not together when authorities issue a flood watch or flood warning, practice how you will communicate with each other. Remember that sending texts is often faster than making a phone call. Keep important numbers written down in your wallet and not just in your phone. It is sometimes easier to reach people outside of your local area during an emergency, so choose an out-of-town contact or use social media.

**Personal Protection** - To avoid being trapped when floodwaters threaten your area, the best action to protect yourself and your family is to evacuate before the flooding starts. Know and follow directions from local officials. If you do not evacuate before the flooding occurs or you are trapped by flash flooding, do not enter flooded areas or moving water either on foot or in a vehicle. It only takes six inches of flood water to float a car.

**Know your evacuation routes;** plan your transportation and a place to stay. If you evacuate by car, keep your car fueled and in good condition. Keep emergency supplies and a change of clothes in your car.

## The Five Ps of Evacuation

**People** - People and, if safely possible, pets and other animals.

**Prescriptions** - Correct dosages; medicines; medical equipment; batteries or power cords.

**Papers** - Including important documents; hard copies or on external hard drives or thumb drives.

**Personal Needs** - Clothes, food, water. See the first page for "Go Bag" checklist.

**Priceless Items** - Pictures or irreplaceable items.

## Emergency Notification

Don't wait, leave early.

Watches, warnings, and evacuation notices are science-based predictions that are intended to provide adequate time for evacuation. Those who wait for actual confirmation of catastrophic levels may be trapped by flooding or traffic.



# Wildfires

Take action to protect yourself and your property now!

Protecting yourself today means knowing your evacuation route, preparing your home or workplace, developing an emergency communications plan, and knowing what to do when a wildfire is approaching your home or your community.



**Property Protection** - A minimum 30-foot defensible space surrounding the house that should be well irrigated and fire resistant. Clear away all combustible materials - leaves or needles and other debris - from the roof, gutters, and decks, and around the foundation. Remove vines from the exterior of the house. Move shrubs and other vegetation away from the sides of the house.

**Insurance** - Review your homeowners or renters insurance policy to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your property

**Wildfire Action Plan** - Use this checklist to help you prepared your Wildfire Action Plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on the situation. Make sure you practice your plan!

- ◇ Create a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans.
- ◇ Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them.
- ◇ Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are and how to use them.
- ◇ Plan several different escape routes.
- ◇ Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire hazard area.
- ◇ Assemble an emergency supply kit (refer to the first page of this newsletter).
- ◇ Appoint an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact so you can communicate with family members who have relocated.



## Evacuation

If the danger is significant, local authorities may issue an evacuation notice to alert residents that a fire is nearby and it is important to leave the area. Evacuation orders can range from voluntary to mandatory.

If there is smoke, drive carefully because visibility may be reduced. Keep your headlights on and watch for other vehicles. Make sure you know your evacuation routes and communicate them with your family.

Download a Ready, Set, Go packet at [www.lagunabeachcity.net](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net) under the Fire Department.