



## **EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS**

**By Walker Novak---November 2005**

In the COACHELLA VALLEY at the beginning of the Yellow Pages Phone Book you can find information on earthquakes. This information is always there for you.

- **IMPORTANT THINGS REMEMBER AND ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND**
- Keep at least 5 gallons of water per person on hand.
- Keep canned food and a can opener.
- Have a wrench AT THE GAS METER so you can turn off the gas.
- Take a first aid class.
- Strap the water heater tank to wall studs. The tank should NOT move in ANY direction.
- Make sure your house is adequately secured to the foundation.
- Install fire extinguishers within easy access.
- Purchase a GOOD first aid kit.
- Bolt bookcases and other tall furniture to the wall studs.
- Install strong latches on kitchen cabinets.
- Have sleeping bags for each person.
- Keep a battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Cache infant, elderly, or disabled family members necessities.
- Keep instructions for how to turn off, gas electricity and water.
- Have a professional turn gas back on.
- Buy earthquake insurance.

### **SHOULD AN EARTHQUAKE OCCUR YOU SHOULD KNOW THE FOLLOWING BY HEART.**

- Drop, cover and hold on. Drop under a sturdy table, hold on, and protect your eyes.
- If there's no table nearby, sit on the floor against an interior wall away from windows, wall cabinets, bookcases, or tall furniture that could fall on you.
- If you're in bed ROLL out of bed onto the floor and wedge yourself against the bed frame with a pillow over your head.
- If you're outdoors, find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, and power lines and drop to the ground.
- If you're in a car, slow down and drive to a clear space. Stay in the car until the shaking stops.
- Expect aftershocks.
- ONLY use the telephone to report life threatening emergencies.

**TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THESE TECHNIQUES!**