

# Home Hazard Hunt



## CHECK YOUR HOME AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM HAZARDS *BEFORE* THEY BECOME AN EMERGENCY

### GENERAL HOME HAZARDS

- ☐ Have emergency numbers next to every phone.
- ☐ Install smoke detectors on every floor and inside or near every bedroom. Test monthly.
- ☐ Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors on every floor. Test monthly.
- ☐ Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors every six months.
- ☐ Make sure dangerous products and cleaners are labeled and stored separately from food, beverages and medicine.
- ☐ Secure rugs and carpets to the stairs or remove them.
- ☐ Be sure stairways, porches, and walkways are lit.
- ☐ Be sure house number is clearly visible from the street, day and night.
- ☐ Make sure automatic garage door opener has an auto-reverse feature to prevent injuries.



### EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

- ☐ Secure entertainment centers, cabinets, book cases, refrigerators, freezers, free standing flat screen TV's, and tall bookshelves to wall studs with "L" shaped brackets or furniture safety straps.

- ☐ Secure items on shelves to prevent toppling.
- ☐ Use earthquake picture wall hangers for large, heavy, hanging pictures.
- ☐ Remove objects from above beds.
- ☐ Place heavier items on lower shelves and lighter items above.
- ☐ Secure food storage, glass canning jars, books, paint, cleaning supplies, etc. with rope, boards or other bracing in front of shelves to prevent falling.
- ☐ Install cupboard locks to prevent doors from swinging open and contents falling out.
- ☐ If necessary, consult a trusted contractor regarding structural reinforcement.

### FIRE HAZARDS

- ☐ Keep fire extinguishers in or near utility room, kitchen, laundry room, garage, and any other room that contains a major heat source. Know how to operate properly.
- ☐ Have all HVAC systems, flue pipes, vents, and chimneys inspected and cleaned yearly.
- ☐ Keep curtains, potholders or other combustibles away from cooking ranges or other heat sources.
- ☐ Keep the stove, oven, and broiler clean of grease.
- ☐ Only store fuels like gasoline, kerosene, and propane in an out building away from the home.



✓ **Make a Plan**   ✓ **Get a Kit**   ✓ **Be Informed**   ✓ **Get Involved**  
For more preparedness information: [BeReady.Utah.gov](http://BeReady.Utah.gov)



Access additional brochures  
at the Be Ready Utah Library

[dem.utah.gov](http://dem.utah.gov)



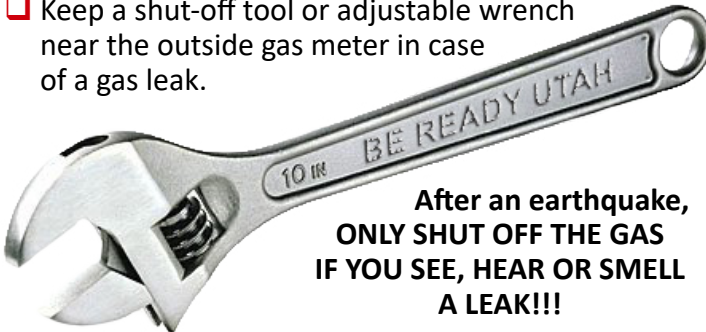
- ☐ Clear brush, leaves, debris, and other combustibles from around your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping, and fire-safe construction.
- ☐ If the garage is attached, make sure a tight fitting, self-closing, fire door is used in the doorway between the garage and the house.

#### **EVACUATION and ESCAPE HAZARDS**

- ☐ Make sure there are at least two escape routes from every room.
- ☐ Make sure upper floor rooms have an emergency ladder or other means of escape.
- ☐ Make sure all exterior doors and windows have locks that unlock and open easily from the inside.
- ☐ Make sure all deadbolt locks have an inside thumb turn lock, not a key lock. A missing key could trap you inside.
- ☐ Make sure security bars have an inside release latch.
- ☐ Install night-lights and emergency lights in hallways and along emergency escape routes.

#### **UTILITIES HAZARDS**

- ☐ Keep a shut-off tool or adjustable wrench near the outside gas meter in case of a gas leak.



**After an earthquake,  
ONLY SHUT OFF THE GAS  
IF YOU SEE, HEAR OR SMELL  
A LEAK!!!**

- ☐ Keep flashlights and spare batteries easily accessible and in working order in the event of a power outage. Flashlights are safer than candles.
- ☐ Only allow qualified electricians to install or repair your wiring.
- ☐ Have enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple plug attachments or long extension cords.

**Rubber-grip shelf liner** is a great tool to keep items from sliding off a shelf in an earthquake. It has many other uses throughout your home as well.

- Jar gripper
- Pot holder
- Liner for tool box

- Prevent breaks between glass dishes
- Hold mobile phones in place
- Under throw rugs
- Under cutting boards
- Keep seat cushions in place
- Behind frames to prevent crooked pictures
- Etc.



- ☐ Know how to safely reset breakers or replace fuses.
- ☐ Do not run extension cords under rugs, furniture, over hooks, or through doorways.
- ☐ Make sure all outlets and switches have properly fitting face plates.
- ☐ Make sure bulbs are the correct wattage for the lamps or light fixtures in which they are used.
- ☐ Too many appliances using the same outlet can cause a fire. Use outlets properly and use surge protectors as needed.
- ☐ Set water heater to 120° F to prevent scalding.
- ☐ Secure the water heater and any other gas appliance to wall studs with sturdy earthquake straps and make sure it is connected to the gas main with a flexible gas line.
- ☐ Teach all responsible people how, when and where to turn off main water, gas, and electricity.
- ☐ Make sure all appliances have an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark or stamp.
- ☐ Make sure all electrical outlets in bathrooms and near water use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to prevent shock.



#### **HAZARDS THAT AFFECT CHILDREN**

- ☐ Keep children away from the range when cooking.
- ☐ Use product safety caps and cupboard locks.
- ☐ Properly install toilet seat locks.
- ☐ Keep medicines, cosmetics and cleaners locked up.
- ☐ Keep window blind cords up out of reach and cut the cord loop in two pieces to prevent strangling.
- ☐ Install window guards in upper windows to prevent falling out.
- ☐ Install gates at the top and bottom of stair cases.
- ☐ Install safety caps over electrical outlets.
- ☐ Store large buckets upside down to prevent collecting water and making a drowning hazard.



✓ **Make a Plan**   ✓ **Get a Kit**   ✓ **Be Informed**   ✓ **Get Involved**  
For more preparedness information: [BeReady.Utah.gov](http://BeReady.Utah.gov)