



I. C. E.

In Case of Emergency

Guidelines for Emergencies and Disasters

MAINTAINING YOUR DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT

Just as important as putting your supplies together is placing them so they can be reached and maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed.

Where to put the supplies

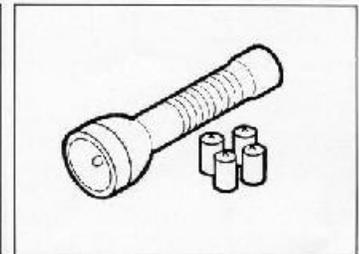
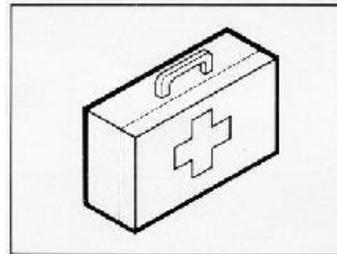
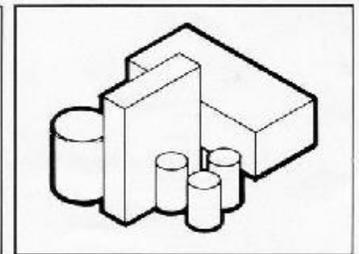
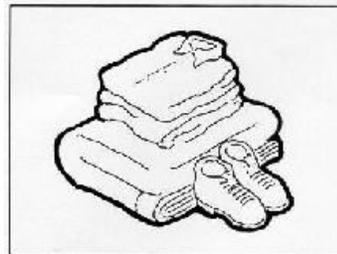
Placing your disaster supplies in a back bedroom, an interior furnace room or in the garage may render them unreachable when needed. This is earthquake country and the house may not be safe to enter after the quake is over. It is common to see homes that have been “Red Tagged” and residents not allowed to enter following such a disaster. In the San Fernando Earthquake of 1971 one of the most common occurrences was for garages to collapse. The building code required only 24” wide walls next to garage doors, and they couldn’t hold the weight of the roof when the shaking began. Whole blocks of houses had their garages lean sideways until they collapsed. The garage may not be the best place for your supplies. I have mine in a metal garden shed in the back yard. Being very flexible it may not collapse and being light-weight I can always lift off the panels for access if it did collapse.

Maintaining your supplies

Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

- Keep canned foods in a dry place where the temperature is cool.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect from pests and to extend the shelf life.
- Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented, or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad, and replace them with fresh supplies.

- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers. Pick a holiday or other day you always remember to service your food and water; that way you won’t forget.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family needs change.
- Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your disaster supplies in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as plastic storage bins, a rolling garbage can, camping backpacks, or duffel bags.



After all,
it’s California!