

The Episcopal Diocese of California Disaster Preparedness

Is your church prepared for an earthquake or other disaster?

Do you have a plan? <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/resource-library> (disaster preparedness tools and templates – complete preparedness planning guide for congregations pdf)

If your church has a preschool, do they have a disaster plan? Where do they keep their emergency supplies? <http://emergency.cdc.gov/children/schools.asp>

Is the church a neighborhood command post with extra supplies?
<http://www.csc.ca.gov/cc/cc.asp>

Do you know where the gas meter is to turn off the gas after an earthquake?
<http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/gaselectricsafety/turngasoff/index.shtml>

Is the water heater strapped down? <http://www.quakehold.com/>

Where are the first aid kits kept? When were they last replenished?
<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit/anatomy>

Are copies/electronic backups of important church documents kept off site?
<http://www.ready.gov/business/implementation/IT>

How do you create a disaster preparedness plan?

- 1) **Organize a committee**
- 2) **Identify your risks** – become knowledgeable about types of potential emergencies and responses. Take an “all hazards” approach.
- 3) **Make a plan and organize** – learn what to do before, during and after a disaster, including organizing supplies and equipment.
- 4) **Train** – practice plans and become first aid and CERT trained
- 5) **Protect church property** - safeguard finances, protect building structure, catalog building’s contents, maintain copies of important documents.

Helpful resources

<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/usdisaster>

<http://www.sfcad.org>

<http://www.calema.ca.gov>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster-safety-library>



The Rev. Tommy Dillon, Diocese of California Disaster Preparedness Coordinator

coming soon: www.diocal.org/disaster