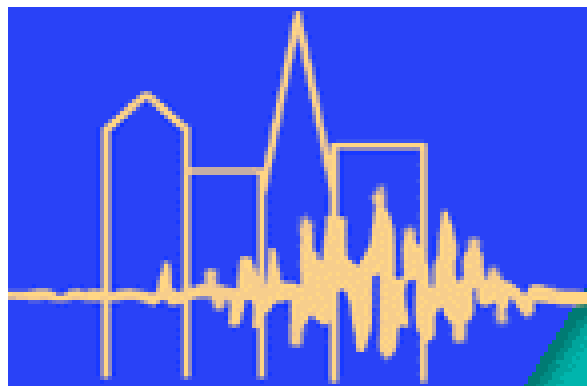




Helping Japan

Are You Prepared? Earthquake Preparedness Tips for Oakland Residents



Preparedness Tips from Mayor Jean Quan

March 11, 2011

Banner Above: The oncoming tsunami strikes the coast in Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture, northeastern Japan, March 11, 2011. The biggest earthquake to hit Japan in 140 years struck the northeast coast on Friday, triggering a 10-meter tsunami that swept away everything in its path, including houses, cars and farm buildings on fire. (REUTERS/KYODO)

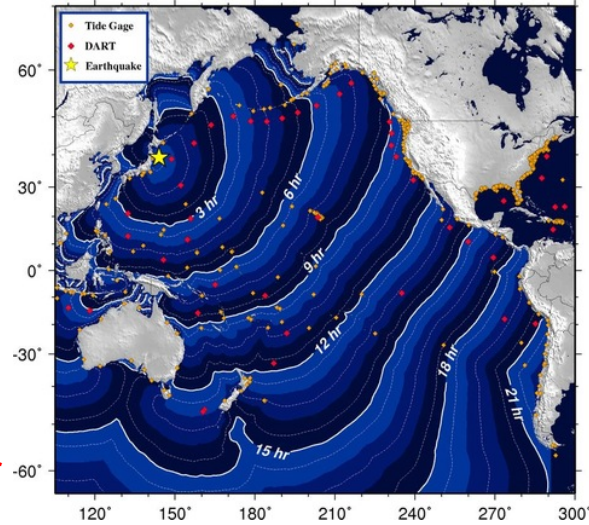
Greetings!



Massive Quake Triggers Tsunami in Japan

As the impact of the offshore 8.9 earthquake and subsequent 23-foot Tsunami in northeast Japan unfolds, our hearts go out to the residents who are still reeling from the disaster. Fortunately, our sister city of Fukuoka was not affected. We are prepared to send Search and Rescue teams from Oakland but have not been requested to do so. Please see the links below for other ways you can help.

Tsunami Travel Times



The Bay Area is not immune--we were on alert for a Tsunami today, and while Oakland didn't suffer any damage, boats crushed in Crescent City and swept to sea in Santa Cruz. It is an unsettling reminder that we, too, live in Earthquake/Tsunami Country.

This is a good time to recheck your emergency supplies, or create an emergency kit if you don't have one for home, work and your car. It's also a great time to connect with your neighbors and organize a CORE group.

As Mayor, I want to encourage as many of our neighborhood [CORE \(Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies\)](#) groups as possible to participate in this year's Oakland's City-wide [CORE Exercise](#) planned for Saturday, April 30 from 9 am to Noon. Each year more and more neighbors are helping us prepare for a major earthquake on the Hayward fault.

There is time for CORE groups to sign up to participate. If you and your neighbors have not been CORE trained, consider registering as observers so you can see how Oakland residents are preparing themselves for a disaster. For Oakland, sitting on the Hayward fault and within the urban/wildland interface, it's not a matter of if, but a matter of when the earthquake or fire may hit.

Emergency preparedness and seismic retrofitting has been one of my highest priorities since I discovered as a School Board member that our schools needed seismic structural studies and then major retrofits. While Oakland has made progress in retrofitting public buildings and in disaster preparation, the next big earthquake could be our Katrina. Many of our homes and much of our rental housing needs to be retrofitted. Many of our citizens need to develop a personal, family and neighborhood disaster plan. Below we have gathered resources to help you to prepare. **We can save thousands of lives and homes if we take action now -- as individuals and as a community -- before the Big One hits.**

Mayor Jean Quan

[Ways to Help Japanese Earthquake Survivors](#)

[In This Issue](#)

*** [Your Cell Phone in an Emergency](#)**



Residents check the damaged done on a road and house in Sukagawa city, Fukushima prefecture in northern Japan on March 2011, FUKUSHIMA MINPO/AFP/Getty Images

- The **American Red Cross** is still in the early hours of this disaster and is waiting for further information from the Japanese Red Cross to determine the level of financial support they will require for relief efforts. The American Red Cross is unable to accept donations of food, clothing or medicine for people affected by disasters because of the large amount of valuable manpower to process items, the logistical difficulties in storing and delivering these items, as well as the extreme expense in shipping goods. Financial support will be needed. Please continue to check www.bayarearedcross.org or follow them on [Twitter@redcrossbayarea](https://twitter.com/redcrossbayarea).
- [UNICEF's](#) Children's Emergency Relief for Japan



Your Cell Phone in an Emergency

As more and more of us carry cell phones, they become a useful tool in an emergency. Most of us have pre-programmed our phones with contact information for our loved ones and out of state contacts. But did you know that your cell phone can do a lot more?

- **Program under ICE**-In Case of Emergency- put the person in the cell phone you would want Emergency Responders to contact
- Use the phone list to plug in your **medical prescriptions**--use "meds" as the last name and then plug in the name of your prescription as the first name and the RX number as the nickname
- You can do the same with **other important information**--just keep in mind that you don't want to post anything so personal that you would have a problem should you lose your phone. There are applications available that will automatically shut off your phone should you lose it.
- Check for applications to **upload a LED flashlight**.

Click here for more ideas from [CARD- Collaborating Agencies](#)

- * **Retrofitting Works!**
 - * **Free Grants and Low Interest Loans for Retrofist**
 - * **Saving Our Workforce Housing**
 - * **Earthquakes on Hayward Fault Occur Every 140 Years**
- Family in Japan?**

Click here for Google Crisis Response [Person Finder](#)

Useful Links

Pet Preparedness

9-1-1 Registry for People With Special Needs

Virtual Tour of the Hayward Fault

Tips from the United States Geological Service

Association of Bay Area Governments Fault & Liquefaction Maps

1868 Hayward Alliance

Did You Feel It? Report or Get Information on Earthquakes & Help Research

Amateur Radio Volunteers for Emergency Communications

Citywide Emergency Exercise



Responding to Disasters, helping nonprofits prepare for emergencies.



Take a Free Emergency Preparedness Class

from the [Oakland's CORE](#) program (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies).

Assemble an Emergency Kit


Try the [Red Cross Website](#) or [72hours.org](#)

Take An On-Line Emergency Preparedness Course

Saturday, April 30, 2010, 9 am - Noon, the Oakland Fire Department, Office of Emergency Services will conduct a **citywide emergency response exercise**. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for individuals and organized neighborhood groups to come together and practice responding to a disaster in our community. In 2011, neighborhoods will practice neighborhood evacuation and effective communication.

Invest in Your Home, Retrofitting Works!

Case Study




Two identical Santa Cruz Victorian style homes were built 110 years ago.

In 1989, the architect/owner retrofitted one of them. Before retrofitting the other one, the 7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake hit.

The retrofitted one cost \$5,000 to repair.

The other one cost \$260,000 to repair. The whole building had to be jacked up, repaired, and slid back on a new foundation.




Quick Links

[Learning from the 1995 Kobe Earthquake](#)

Seismic retrofitting of single-family homes on relatively flat land costs between \$3,000 and \$10,000-- more if your house is on a hillside.

During the two years that Oakland had funds for its [New Homeowner Seismic Strengthening Program](#), (2007-2009) more than 400 people took advantage of the \$250 seismic retrofit permit and reimbursement program. While funding for reimbursement has run out, **the flat permit fee is still in place**, and homeowners are still taking advantage of the program. **(Call 328-3891 for details.)**

Our office continues to seek new funding and low cost loans for retrofitting. We are working with the California Earthquake Authority, local banks and insurance companies and the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) to find additional funding sources so that owners of pre-1991 wood-frame one to two story homes can take advantage of incentive programs and retrofit their homes before the Big One hits!

For **aneasy to understand primer on seismic retrofitting** of single family homes, check out the Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) website-- <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/fixit>.



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

- If you are interested in doing your own retrofit, our office has assembled and purchased tool kits that you can check out of the [Temescal Tool Lending Library](#).



Free Grants and Low Interest Loans for Retrofits in Redevelopment Zones

If you meet Federal low income requirements and living on one of Oakland's Redevelopment Zones, you may be eligible for up to a \$5,000 grant for 1/2 the cost of seismically retrofitting your single-family home. No-interest home improvement loans can help make up the difference.

The City also offers grants and low-cost loans to low income Oakland residents for other types of home improvements:

- [Access improvement for homeowners \(owner-occupied\)](#)
- [Access improvement for rental property owners](#)
- [Central City East Homeownership Rehabilitation Program](#)
- [Emergency Home Repair](#)
- [Home Maintenance & Improvement Loan](#)
- [Lead Safe Housing and Paint Program](#)
- [Minor Home Repair Program](#)
- [Neighborhood Housing Rehabilitation Program](#)
- [Weatherization and Energy Retrofit Loan Program](#)

For details, contact the Housing and Community Development Division at 238-3015.



Saving Our Workforce & Rental Housing-- Soft Story Apartments and Condominiums

Two-thirds of the predicted housing loss that Oakland faces in the next big earthquake is predicted to come from apartments and condominiums that have large open first floor spaces (parking or commercial soft story.) That's about **14,700 dwelling units** in approximately 1500 soft-story apartments.

Council Member Nancy Nadel and I co-authored the [Mandatory Soft Story Screening Ordinance](#) that requires owners of pre-1991 apartments and condominiums that have potentially soft-story first floors to do a low-cost (\$500) screening to determine if they are indeed soft-story structures. Letters will soon be going out to groups of building owners asking them to complete the survey within six months. When the surveys are completed and analyzed by fall, the City Council will determine next steps which may

include: requiring at risk buildings to complete a structural engineering report (approximately \$10K) and then encouraging them to do a voluntary--or mandatory--seismic retrofit (approximately \$60K-\$100K+).

For details, call 238-3891.

Our office is working closely with the Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County and local banks, insurance companies and others to identify funding for incentives so that property owners can implement these pre-disaster mitigation safety measures.

For [ABAG's report on Soft-Story Residential Buildings](#) in Earthquakes-- Risk and Public Policy Opportunities for Oakland...



Earthquakes on the Hayward Fault Occur Every 140 years--

October 21, 2008 marked the 140th anniversary of the 1868 Hayward earthquake, which was the first great "San Francisco earthquake" and one of the most damaging earthquakes in the nation's history. This Magnitude 6.8 earthquake broke a section of the Hayward Fault from the location of

present-day Fremont to probably just north of Oakland. <<*Hayward Flour Mill damaged in 1868 Hayward Earthquake* Experts forecast major impacts on the Bay Area when a similar earthquake occurs on the Hayward Fault:

- Losses to property worth more than \$500 billion
- 5 million people in six surrounding counties strongly impacted
- 1.5 million jobs affected--with health care, social assistance and educational services most affected, along with manufacturing and retail.
- Total residential and commercial economic losses, including damage to private buildings and contents, business interruption and additional living expenses will exceed \$120 billion.
- Less than 10% of homeowners and 15% of businesses carry earthquake insurance to cover these losses.
- Major disruption to transportation: airports and nearly all the region's port facilities are built on landfill strongly susceptible to damage by liquefaction and strong shaking.
- Interstate 580 could be offset horizontally by as much as 6 feet. Bridge and BART tunnels are currently being retrofitted; but if not completed in time, more than 180,000 daily commuters using these transportation links will have to seek alternatives.
- More than 1,100 roads will be closed--900 in Alameda County alone.

