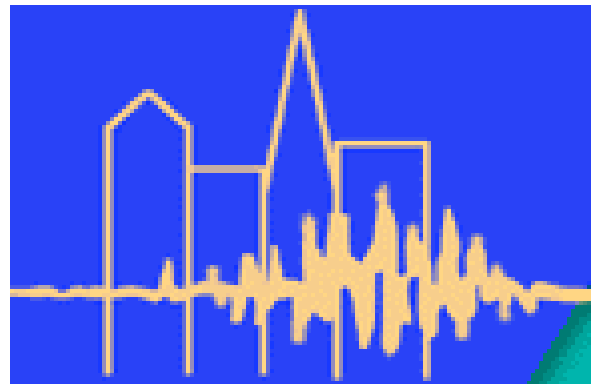




## Helping Japan

### **Are You Prepared? Earthquake Preparedness Tips for Oakland Residents**



Preparedness Tips from Mayor Jean Quan

March 15, 2011

*Banner Above: People walk on a muddy road as they evacuate to a shelter in Natori city, Miyagi prefecture on March 12, 2011. More than 10,000 people have died in the disaster. (STR/AFP/Getty Images)*

### **Greetings!**

We continue to watch and admire the resourcefulness of survivors of the earthquake, tsunami and power plant disasters in Northern Japan. The City Administrator released the following statement this afternoon:

"A number of Oakland residents have inquired about the impact of Japan's on Oakland. Currently there is no danger to California residents from Japan's nuclear emergency.

The Alameda County Public Health Department does not recommend taking potassium iodide at this time. Potassium iodide can have serious side effects and should not be taken unless recommended. City of Oakland staff continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide you with updated information as we receive it.

For more information, please refer to the California Department of Public Health at (916) 341-3947 or visit the following web sites:

[California Department of Public Health-FAQs Concerning Japan's Nuclear Emergency](#)

[NRC Sees No Radiation at Harmful Levels Reaching U.S. from Damaged Japanese Nuclear Power Plants](#)

[U.S. Food and Drug Administration-FAQs re: Potassium Iodide](#)

[Centers for Disease Control-Health Effects and Treatment for Radiation Emergencies"](#)

### Lessons for Oakland

There are many lessons to be learned here at home about making sure you have food, water and emergency supplies, back up ways to communicate with love ones, and other emergency preparation training. Oakland's Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) provides training for the full range of disasters we might experience in our city.

You can take a [CORE class online](#)

Put together an [Emergency Kit](#) and an [Emergency Plan](#)

**I encourage as many of our neighborhood CORE 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.

### Ways to Help

Our office has also received calls from residents who want to help survivors. Established disaster organizations request that you make a financial donation, as they are not accepting in-kind donations at this time. Please check the list below for reputable organizations that are providing assistance in Japan.



**Mayor Jean Quan**

## Ways to Help Japanese Earthquake/Tsunami Survivors



*People walk through the rubble in Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture, Sunday March 13, 2011, two days after a powerful earthquake-triggered tsunami. (AP Photo/Kyodo News)*

- [The Huffington Post](#) lists at least 13 ways to support survivors of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.
- The [NY Times](#) also has a [list and information](#) on how to get information about friends and relatives.



### Your Cell Phone in an Emergency

### In This Issue

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- \* 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](#)



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>.

- 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](#).



### [Learning from the 1995 Kobe Earthquake](#)



### [Join Our Mailing List!](#)



## **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.

