b Art Nash

Alaska is subject to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and an increasingly unpredictable climate. Extreme wind events are becoming more common, wild res are increasing in frequency and severity, and ooding is occurring along rivers and coastlines.

ose living on the Gulf of Alaska know that tsunamis are a danger a er an earthquake. Coastal residents are aware of potential ooding accompanied by erosion and storm surges, and residents of the Interior and elsewhere are concerned about wild res and smoke during the summer months. No matter what the potential threat, most Alaskans are concerned about protecting their homes.

Protect Your Home

Wildfres and Defensible Space

Defensible space is the area needed to stop or slow the spread of wild re around your home. should extend at least 30 feet from the house in all directions. Within this zone:

- in trees and prune brush to at least 10 feet o the ground and dispose of dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
- Leave adequate space between groups of shrubs and the branches of trees.
- Reduce the density of the surrounding forest.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds.
- Maintain an irrigated green belt.
- Stack rewood away from home and locate fuel tanks at least 30 feet from the home.
- Keep roofs and gutters clean.

If you are building or remodeling, think about protecting your home from re in other ways:

Use re-resistant or noncombustible roo ng materials and treat combustible materials.



such as decks, siding and trim, with re-retardant chemicals.

- Plant re-resistant trees (hardwoods rather than spruce or pine) and shrubs.
- Keep a rake, ax, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket, shovel and ladder handy.
- Maintain an outside water storage container with a pump and a hose with a "Y" junction long enough to reach any part of the house.

Wind Eo



Attach strong ties or dips to solidly connect any beams to the rafters or joists.



If your home is set up on crib timbers, they need to be connected with hardware to the

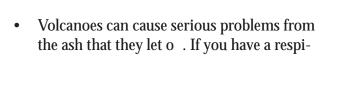
- the interior of the corners for seismic stabilization.
- To keep the insulation from shaking out of pad and post foundations, staple bu alo board or plywood between the oor joists to keep insulation in place. If you can a ord it, foam board can provide added insulation to the berglass.

Foundations with a crawl space Nail or otherwise adhere vertical beams to the beam or joist above. Or better, have a cement pad embedded piece of rebar, which can be inserted into a drilled hole in the beam or joist above it to provide more stability in case of an earthquake or a horizon-

Prepare Your Family

If you must evacuate:

- Shut o any type of circulation zone valves on radiant heating and fuel drum lines immediately before or during a disaster.
- Shut o the utilities such as water and natural gas if you have them.
- Post emergency phone numbers in a common area of the house.
- Clearly identify your home and make sure there is good access.
- Have an evacuation plan with several escape routes and a meeting place and practice it with your family.
- Put together an emergency kit with supplies (food, water, rst aid, clothing, radio, valuables, important documents, etc.). Remember the six "Ps:"
 - People and pets and other livestock
 - Papers including important documents (Hopefully, these are all together and easily accessible.)
 - Prescriptions, including medication, eyeglasses and hearing aids/batteries
 - Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
 - Personal computerIt is always a good idea to have a backup on a small portable hard drive that is easy to carry.
 - Phone: Always keep your phone charged and ready to take with you, and remember that texting may be a better way to communicate.
- In the case of an earte a $9r^*$ (h)4 (e c)-2.9 (a)3 (s)-8e o)12 (f a)9 (n e)-6 (a)9 (r)-9



In Summary
We can't avoid natural disasters but we can mitigate our losses and shorten the time it takes to get back into our homes. With the structures on your property, you want to prepare the foundation and think of ways to prevent moisture damage or a problem with

Survival

- ... Water and disinfectants: 2 quarts to 1 gallon per person per day and a disinfectant such as iodine tablets or chlorine bleach to purify water
- ... First aid kit, freshly stocked and stored in a central location with emergency instructions
- ... First aid book
- ... Food (packaged, canned, dried, no-cook and baby food, food for special diets) to last one week
- ... Can opener (non-electric)
- ... Blankets or sleeping bags
- ... Portable radio and extra batteries for receiving emergency broadcasts and current disaster information
- ... Flashlight and extra batteries
- ... Essential medication and glasses
- ... Fire extinguisher ABC type, easily accessible and suitable for all types of res
- ... Food and water for pets
- ... Money

Sanitation Supplies

- ... Large plastic trash bags for trash, waste, water protection
- ... Large trash cans

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www.uaf.edu/ces or 1-877-520-5211
Art Nash, Extension Energy Specialist
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