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

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



Protect Your Home

Wildfires and Defensible Space

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

- Clean up dead trees and prune brush to at least 10 feet above 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 firewood 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 fire in other ways:

- Use fire-resistant or noncombustible roofing materials and treat combustible materials,

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

- Plant fire-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 Erosion



Attach strong ties or clips 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 burlap board or plywood between the floor joists to keep insulation in place. If you can afford it, foam board can provide added insulation to the fiberglass.

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 off any type of circulation zone valves on radiant heating and fuel drum lines immediately before or during a disaster.
- Shut off 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, first 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 computer It 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 earthquake 911 (h)4 (e) c)-2.9 (a)3 (s)-8 (e) o)12 (f) a)9 (n) e)-6 (a)9 (r)-9

- Volcanoes can cause serious problems from the ash that they let o . If you have a respi-

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

Emergency Supply Checklist

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 fires
- ... Food and water for pets
- ... Money

Sanitation Supplies

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

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