



# Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

## FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

- Get rid of clutter and store flammable materials safely. Eliminate piles of newspapers and magazines, old furniture, or any other items which could fuel a fire. Clean up wood scraps and sawdust in your workshop. Vacuum up combustible dust from around electrical boxes or other places where ignition may occur.
- Store combustibles properly. Discard oily rags or store them in tightly sealed metal containers. Store only small quantities of flammable items like paint thinner or rubber cement. Check their lids to ensure they're tightly sealed.
- Don't smoke in bed. Smoking is the second leading cause of fires. Make a rule that no one smokes in bed. Always empty ashtrays into a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Make sure cigarettes or ashes don't fall between sofa cushions. Fire in a sofa or mattress could smoulder for hours before it ignites, so if you drop a cigarette, ensure that it caught nothing on fire.
- Keep fuse and circuit breaker boxes closed and clean. Replace blown fuses only with ones of the correct rating. The wrong fuse could cause a fire in the wiring.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or use extension cords improperly. Never string electrical cords under rugs or join several extension cords together to make one long one.
- Have your heating system checked by a professional before winter. Check chimney and flue pipes and remove dust and soot to prevent chimney fires.
  - If you must use portable heaters, keep them away from curtains, bedding or other combustibles. Store kerosene for portable heaters properly.
  - Check your kitchen exhaust fan regularly and clean any grease that has accumulated. The fan is one of the leading sources of kitchen fires.
  - Install a smoke detector and check it regularly, replacing the batteries when they begin to get low.
  - Store matches away from heat, in closed metal containers. Never search closets or other dark places with a match or lighter, use a flashlight. Keep flashlights in working order, and put them in accessible locations in case of a power outage or blown fuse.



## WARNING SIGNS OF A CHIMNEY FIRE

As the owner of a wood burning stove or fire place, you should be aware of the signs of a chimney fire. They are a loud roaring, popping noises coming from the chimney or stove pipe, sparks and flames shooting from the chimney top or vibration of the stove or stovepipe.

In the event a chimney fire occurs, call the fire department, then try to extinguish the fire. Never use water to extinguish fires in wood burners. It can result in cracks to the device. The proper method of extinguishment is to close the damper. If the stove is airtight, keep the doors closed to cut off the air. If it is not airtight, use a chemical extinguisher or throw salt on the fire.

With proper installation, use and maintenance, wood burners can provide hours of enjoyment and result in a substantial reduction in the cost of heating your home. Remember, SAFETY FIRST!

## OPEN BURNING

State law allows no open burning on the ground and only wood can be burned in an approved container.

You may wonder why it is harmful to open burn. In addition to being against the law in most cases, open burning is harmful to those who are near the fire and to the environment in general. All burning gives off pollutants. The amount of damage will depend on what is being burned, how much is being burned and how it is being burned.

Some suggested means of disposal are:

- a. Wastes from gardening can be plowed back into the ground for natural fertilization or composted to provide good fertilizer later.
- b. Grass, weeds, small branches, etc. can be composted.
- c. Larger tree limbs and trunks can often be used for firewood.
- d. Small limbs and brush could be chipped for:
  1. mulch and utilized as compost
  2. hauling to an approved landfill
  3. burial
- e. Paper can be recycled.
- f. Leaves may be raked, bagged and put out with the weekly trash pick-up. They will pick up limbs and brush on their regular weekly routes if the materials are bundled in stacks no larger than 3' X 6'.

If you have any questions please contact the EPA office at 426-5597.

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## A WORD ABOUT FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATION

### WHY ARE WINDOWS BROKEN OR HOLES CUT IN THE ROOF?

As a fire burns, it moves upward then outward. Breaking the windows and/or cutting holes in the roof (called ventilation) stops that damaging outward movement and enables the fire fighters to fight more efficiently, resulting in less damage to the structure in the long run.

"Ventilation" is the planned removal of heat and smoke from a fire building and replacing it with cooler air. Also, it makes it easier to see inside. Ventilating a burning building can help us find the fire quicker and extinguish it with less water. This reduces water damage.

### WHY ARE HOLES CUT IN THE WALLS AND CEILING?

This is done so that the Fire Department is absolutely sure the fire is completely out, and there is no fire inside the walls or other hidden places.

### WHY DOES THE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPOND TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES WHEN THERE IS NO FIRE?

Many departments train fire fighters in emergency medicine. This allows faster response to an emergency, better use of personnel and most importantly, expeditious care to patients. This allows the nearest personnel to quickly respond to a medical emergency.

### WHY DOES THAT VEHICLE HAVE BLUE LIGHTS TURNED ON?

The **BLUE LIGHT** signifies a volunteer fire fighter responding to an emergency in his private vehicle. He is requesting the right-of-way in order that he may proceed to the fire station or the scene of an emergency.

The next time you see a blue light illuminated on a vehicle, please extend an extra courtesy to that fire fighter. He or she may be on their way to help a friend, relative or neighbor of yours.

The volunteer fire fighters thank you for your cooperation.

## DISASTER !! ARE YOU PREPARED?

Earthquake, tornado, thunderstorm, or flood. What if we have a major disaster here in Evansville?

By taking certain preparedness measures, the impact of a disaster can definitely be lessened. Set aside some emergency supplies and teach your family what to do at home during and after a disaster. You could be without help for up to 72 hours, so learn to cope for at least that long.

More important than what to do after a disaster, is what to do before. It will be necessary for you to prepare yourself physically and mentally. Mentally, you'll need to acquaint yourself with the possible likely scenarios. Physically, you'll need to obtain certain important supplies.

Even the most "normal" person feels some psychological trauma in the wake of a disaster. Your best defense is carefully going through the reasonable possibilities, so as to make the disaster seem less a fearful unknown.

If a disaster occurs at a time when your family is not all together, **where will you meet?**

If someone is injured, **do you have basic knowledge of first aid?**

Frequently power lines are knocked down. Is your family prepared to do without a refrigerator, stove, microwave, TV, radio, heating or air conditioning? When the electric lights are out, **will you be able to find the supplies you need in the dark?**

Earthquakes frequently take out water lines. You may not get water from your faucets, and if you do it may be contaminated. **What will you do in a water shortage?**

Other lines may go down. The phone lines will certainly be either out or overloaded with life/death emergencies.

If the sewage lines are out, you can't use the toilet. It won't flush.

If your gas line is broken, **do you know how to shut it off?** Do other members of your family?

By acquainting yourself with the likely possibilities now, you'll be less likely to be unpleasantly, and possibly dangerously, surprised later.

Because disasters occur without warning, it's important to take steps now to prepare, so that you know what to do and how to respond.

With power lines out, you'll need **batteries**. Keep plenty of **flashlights** on hand and a **portable radio** around. It may be your only contact with the outside world for news and information. You'll need a **fire extinguisher** and a **pipe wrench** to stop small fires and turn off broken gas lines. Gas leaks are extremely dangerous, so take necessary precautions.

With no sewage lines, you'll need **plastic bags** for garbage and human waste.

Medically, you'll need a **first aid kit**. It's a good idea to keep extra prescription medications around as well as an extra pair of eyeglasses.

There are two other critical needs to address --- **Food and Water**.

You must keep **canned and dry foods** on hand. Without electricity, food in the refrigerator will spoil and you may not be able to cook. Generally canned and dry foods have a shelf life of at least one year. Keep enough food to last each member of the family for a week. For your canned food don't forget a **manual can opener**. You may also want to keep disposable plates and cups.

**Water** should be a primary concern. The human body cannot survive more than a few days without it. Damaged water lines may result in contaminated water. Your best bet is to keep plenty of **bottle water** on hand. Generally, each person will need two quarts to a gallon of water per day, so keep 4-7 gallons on hand per person, just to be safe.

To be prepared you need to imagine yourself in the possible scenarios and decide what you need to do to survive. **Remain Calm!** It cannot be stressed enough. By remaining calm and thinking clearly, you'll be able to make the correct decisions in potentially dangerous situations. While a disaster can be frightening, preparation works and work well.

# Have on Hand— For Any Emergency

Check



**Flashlights with spare batteries.** Keep a flashlight beside your bed. Do not use matches or candles after an earthquake until you are certain no gas leaks exist.



**Portable radio with spare batteries.** Most telephones will be out of order or used for emergency purposes so radios will be your best source of information.



**First Aid Kit; first aid knowledge** — have a first aid book such as the *Standard First Aid & Personal Safety* by the American National Red Cross. Have members of your household take basic Red Cross first aid and CPR courses.



**Fire Extinguishers.** Keep a fire extinguisher handy for small fires. Some extinguishers are only good for certain types of fires—electrical, grease, or gas. Class ABC extinguishers are designed to use safely on any type of fire. Your fire department can demonstrate proper use.



**Food.** It's always a practical idea to keep a supply of non-perishable food on hand which can be rotated into your diet and replenished on a regular basis. Have a sufficient supply of canned or dehydrated food, powdered milk and canned juices for at least 72 hours. Dried cereals and fruits and non-salted nuts are a good source of nutrition.



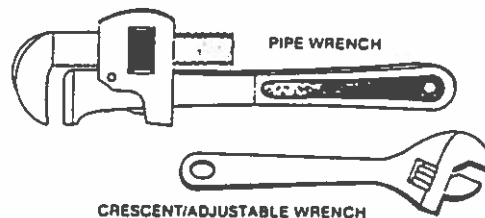
**Water** — should be stored in airtight containers and replaced about every six months. Store at least three gallons of water per person to be prepared for a 72-hour period. Also have purification tablets such as Halazone and Globaline but read the label on the bottle before using tablets.



**Special Items.** Have at least a week's supply of medications and special foods needed for infants or those on limited diets.

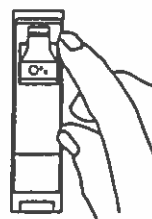


**Tools.** Pipe Wrench and Crescent Wrench — for turning off gas and water mains.

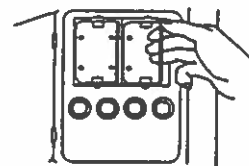


## Home Preparedness

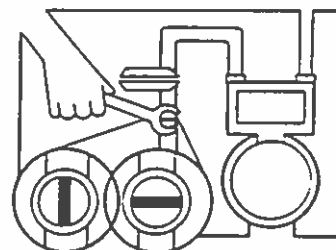
Teach responsible members of your family how to turn off electricity, gas and water at main switch and valves. **Caution:** Do not shut off gas unless an emergency exists. If gas is ever turned off, remember that all pilot lights must be relit.



Circuit Breaker



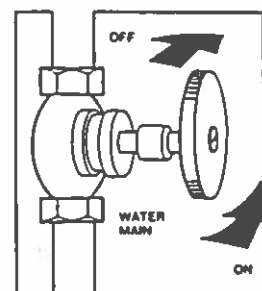
Pull-out Cartridge Fuses



Gas Valve

ON OFF

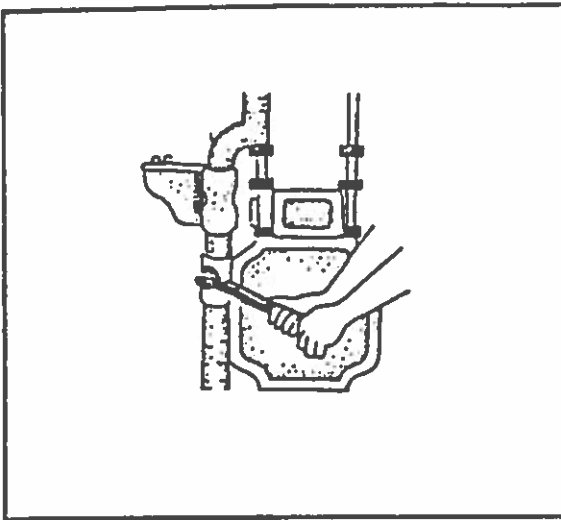
Label water shut-off valve, found where water enters the house. Also main water shut-off valve, found with meter in a concrete box in the sidewalk.



# EARTHQUAKES

## During an Earthquake

- \*\* If you are outdoors, stay outdoors. If you are indoors, stay indoors. Most injuries occur when people are leaving or entering buildings.
- \*\* If you are indoors, take cover under a heavy desk or table, or in a hall, doorway, or against inside walls. Stay away from glass.
- \*\* If you are outdoors, move away from buildings and utility wires. The greatest danger comes from falling debris just outside of doorways or outer walls. Once in the open stay until shaking stops.
- \*\* If you are in a moving car, stop as soon as you can, but stay in the car. A car is a good place to stay until the shaking stops. When you drive on, watch for hazards including falling or fallen objects, electrical wires, or collapsed roadways.
- \*\* Keep a cool head. An earthquake takes anywhere from a few seconds to a few minutes, so if it starts, be prepared to wait it out. Don't panic.



## After the Earthquake

- \*\* Make sure you have shoes on, broken glass is a tremendous hazard.
  - \*\* Check for injuries. Don't attempt to move anyone with serious injuries unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
  - \*\* Shut off gas, electricity, and water then check them. If you smell gas, open the windows, shut off main gas valve, leave the building and notify the authorities.
  - \*\* Don't smoke, douse all fires.
  - \*\* Emergency water may be drawn from the water heater or melting ice in the freezer.
- \*\* Check sewage lines before using sanitary facilities.
- \*\* Turn on your portable radio to get up-to-the-minute instructions.
- \*\* If your water is still working make sure you disinfect it before using it. You can strain it through a cloth, then boil for 5-10 min. If your power is not on, after straining water disinfect it with 5.25% solution of sodium hypochlorine (household chlorine bleach). Do not use bleaches with any other active ingredients. Mix water and bleach well. Let it sit for 30 min. If there is a slight chlorine odor in the water you did it right. If not, repeat the dosage and let it sit for 15 min.
- If water is clear: 1 qt water add 2 drops of bleach  
If water is cloudy: 1 qt water add 4 drops of bleach
- \*\* Clean up any potentially hazardous materials
  - \*\* If power is off, check your freezer and plan meals to use foods which spoil quickly.
  - \*\* Be prepared for after shocks, some may cause additional damage.
- To be prepared you need to imagine yourself in the possible scenarios (trapped at home, office, car) and decide what you would need at those places to survive. While an earthquake can be frightening, preparation works and works well.

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The Perry Township Fire Department wishes to **THANK** everyone who has supported us on our annual fund drive.

If you have overlooked sending us your **tax deductible donation** and still wish to help us, please send your **donation** to:

Perry Township Fire Department, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7051  
Evansville, IN. 47712

**THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR PAST AND PRESENT SUPPORT**

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**STOP---DROP AND ROLL**

IF YOUR CLOTHES ARE ON FIRE--**STOP** WHAT YOU ARE DOING, **DROP** TO THE FLOOR OR GROUND AND **ROLL** OVER AND OVER. **DON'T** FORGET TO COVER YOUR FACE.

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**SMOKE DETECTORS --- A SOUND YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT**

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**HOME SMOKE DETECTORS --- CUT YOUR RISK OF DYING IN A FIRE BY 50%.  
CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO HAVE THEM!!!**

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**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS -- YOUR SMALL FIRE DEFENSE  
DO YOU HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN YOUR HOME?  
MOST FIRES START SMALL**

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Perry Twp. Fire Dep't  
P.O. Box 7051  
Evansville, IN 47712

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