

# What would you do?

What would you do if there were a major natural disaster today, would you or your loved ones know how to get in contact with one another, would you know where to meet, would you and or your family be able to survive for three days? If you can't answer all of these questions with a YES then you are not prepared.

First of all I won't refer to New Orleans, LA and the hurricane Katrina thing because it doesn't apply. You may ask why? For five days the people were told to evacuate and they chose to ignore the warnings of the government and the weather service. And here in California we don't have hurricanes. But if we were told there was a 99% chance of a 6.5 earthquake in Pasadena from a reliable source and given the day it would hit I want to believe that all of the people reading this that live in Pasadena and the surrounding area would evacuate at least for 24 hours just in case "they" are right.

With that being said, how many of you have a plan in the case of emergency and do you know the government expects us all to be aware that help may not arrive for three (3) days? You can go to "California Governor's Office of Emergency Services" web site and review and print out the Emergency Supplies Checklist. In it you will find a list of emergency supplies, some of which you will need and some you won't, but it's a good starting place. They have also put together a Family Disaster Plan. There is a card that you can fill out and give to each member of your family so each of you know who to call where to go if a natural disaster were to separate the family.

Each one of us should have a plan of one sort or another, I'm not saying this plan is the best but I am saying that each of us need at least plan "A". Most of us live in Southern California and have experienced an earthquake or two some of us have experienced the Sylmar and or the Northridge quakes. We know what can happen in the event of a really big earthquake one can be cut off without any communication to anyone in seconds.

Providing your family is safe and together immediately after "the Big One" what would you do or who would you call to let your loved ones know that you were OK if you could only make one call? How would they contact you? Would you and your family be able to sustain (eat, drink, live) for three days even if your house were un-livable and you had no transportation out of the area? What would you do?

Make a plan, discuss it with your immediate family, arrange for a contact person that does not live so close that they would be affected also. Make sure all in your family know to call this contact person. Have some extra food, water and supplies on hand so you can survive for three days until help arrives.

Al Biernesser