

What do you need to have BEFORE an earthquake hits Salt Lake City?

1 – Family Plan – where to meet. This plan needs to account for the time of day (are parents at work, are children at school, etc.) as well as the day of the week.

2 - Flash lights and batteries, and a lantern that doesn't use oil (in case of gas leak). The LED flashlights are strong and last a long time.

3 – Shoes or slippers kept near your bed.

4 – Blankets or sleeping bags – this is a must to stay warm if it is winter time, or because you do not want to sleep upstairs, or because you may have to leave your house.

5 – Grab bag with food and water if you have to leave your house.

6 – Water – 1 gallon per person per day – for drinking, cooking, cleaning, bathing, and sanitation. That's a lot of water. Plus, water may not be available if one or more of the large aqueducts carrying water to the Wasatch Front ruptures.

7 – Portable radio and batteries – it's very important to know what is happening. I mentioned we saw all these fires and heard sirens all morning, and we had no clue what was going on. We had no source of information.

8 – Cooking source – bar be- que, generator, camp stove, sterno cans, and matches, if the electricity is off for longer than a day.

9 – First aid kit – this may be very important for immediate first aid needs. Depending on the size of the quake, help may not be available for quite a while.

10 – Fire extinguisher – have you tested yours lately?

11 – Brace your water heater. This will prevent a lot of damage.

12 – Cabinet latches are a good idea to protect china and glasses from spilling out and being broken – they can be a bother (and you may not want to use them for every day cabinets), but they can prevent a lot of damage in your kitchen.

13 - Consider bracing your chimney if is high and old. Chimneys can come loose from the house and cause a lot of damage.

14 - Food supply, including (1) items that you will eat, (2) can be prepared under adverse conditions with a minimum of cooking, and (3) need little water to prepare.