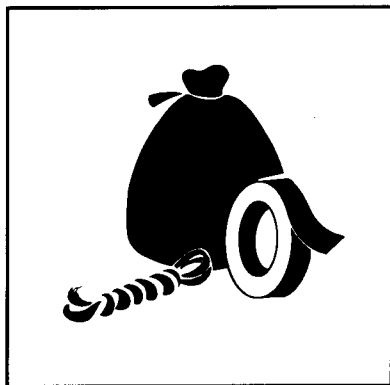


# ESP FOCUS



## ROPE, TAPE AND TRASH BAGS



### WHY

Rope and tape are important supplies to have after an earthquake to help rescue trapped victims and secure loose objects. You may also need heavy trash bags to store human waste since sewer lines may be inoperable. Include heavy trash bags--as well as rope and tape--in your earthquake preparedness kits.

### ROPE

Rope can be used hand-in-hand with tape to secure loose objects or bind them together for transportation. In an emergency, it can also be used to help rescue trapped victims. It's extremely important that persons using rope to secure objects have a working knowledge of knots and know how to secure the objects to sturdy anchor points.

Make sure you get the right type of rope. If you are not trained in technical rope systems, use utility rope, rather than supermarket rope, which is not safe for emergency/disaster applications. Experienced urban or wilderness rescuers can use 1/2-inch static kernmantle rope for rappelling, moving victims in stokes, and other technical rescue operations. Persons who have forgotten their military or scout training in ropes and knots can pick up a manual on basic knots and rope techniques at an outdoor sporting goods or camping store.

# N O V E M B E R

DO NOT attempt any technical rope systems without basic training from qualified wilderness or urban search and rescue instructors.

## TAPE

Another valuable earthquake supply kit item is duct tape. Its adhesive strength and durability--even in outdoor conditions--make it superior to most common masking and cellophane tapes. It can also be easily torn by hand into needed lengths without cutting tools. You can buy duct tape at most paint, hardware and home supply stores.

In a disaster or other emergency, duct tape can be used to:

- Fasten coverings over damaged windows, walls, etc.
- Strap objects, supplies, boxes together for better security or to transport.
- Fasten protective coverings over perishable or nonweather-resistant items.
- Fasten liners over emergency/portable commodes.
- Seal waste products in plastic containers.
- Mark or label for identification (black permanent markers work well on the tape).
- Seal loose clothing such as pant legs and shirt sleeves against weather, insects, etc.

Although duct tape wears well, rotate your supply at least once a year by using it at home or work and replacing it with fresh rolls. Over time, it may become brittle and lose its adhesive strength.

*Source: Michael D. Douglass, California Office of Emergency Services*

## TRASH BAGS

After a major earthquake, damage to sewer and water lines may leave sinks and toilets inoperable. Properly disposing human waste will reduce the risk of disease and contamination.

### Before a quake:

- Include heavy trash bags in your earthquake kits.
- Designate an area away from your main living area or building that can be used if your bathroom is inoperable.
- Provide for privacy and ventilation.

### Before using toilets or sinks:

- Check the surrounding neighborhood to see if sewer and water lines are intact. The sewer line to your home could be intact, but it could be broken three blocks away. Flushing your toilet could dump raw sewage into your neighbor's yard.
- Plan to use outside sanitation facilities.

Empty the bowls and line each of them with a heavy trash bag. If necessary, you can also use waste paper baskets. You also might want to purchase collapsible toilets used for camping. Add a disinfectant such as a portable toilet chemical, household chlorine bleach, or powdered chlorinated lime to the waste to help **prevent disease**. Follow the instructions provided and add water when necessary. Be sure to tie full bags securely and store them in a tightly covered garbage can, away from living, nursing, and food preparation areas.

*Source: Earthquakes and Preparedness: Before • During • After, Earthquake Preparedness Society*

### November 1991 Action:

#### Fire Extinguisher

*Contact a SCEPP office or a county ESP coordinator for a November 1991 Focus Sheet.*

This focus sheet is produced as part of the Earthquake Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase earthquake preparedness at home and work. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project (SCEPP), a project of the California Office of Emergency Services, and the counties of Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura coordinate the campaign.

*Things to do in '92*



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