

Gulf Islands School District

Emergency Preparedness



If you are prepared for an earthquake, you are prepared for any disaster. Because our school is located in an earthquake prone area, we want to remind you that, in the event of an earthquake occurring, the following procedures will be followed:

- No student will be dismissed from school unless a parent (or guardian designated by a parent) comes for him/her.
- No child will be allowed to leave with another person, even a relative or babysitter, unless we have written permission to that effect or that particular person is listed on the student's emergency card in our files. With this in mind, if your child's card is not up to date, please request a new card from our office.
- All parents or designated guardians who come for students must sign them out at the office or at the alternative Student Release Station at the entrance to the school yard.

In most situations parents will be able to come and collect their children within two hours after a major earthquake.

However, the school is prepared to care for children in the event of a critical situation or if parents are not able to reach the school. There are a number of people with first aid certificates, and the school will be in communication with local emergency services.

We do ask for your help in the following areas:

- please **do not call the school**; we must have the lines open for emergency calls following an earthquake or other emergency,
- **do not immediately drive to the school**; streets and access to our school may be cluttered with debris, the school access route and street entrance areas must remain clear for emergency vehicles
- do **turn your radio to 107.9 FM or 690 on the AM dial**; information and directions will be given over the radio.

If you have any further questions please speak with the principal.

As the Parent or Guardian of a student in the Gulf Islands School District, here are some key points to be aware of regarding an emergency.

Before

- be aware of school's earthquake policy and procedures
- provide the school with the name of an alternative guardian.

During

- take cover under a table, bed, or in a doorway away from windows in the "CRASH" position.

After

- do not phone the school, they may be trying to reach you, or emergency response services.
- when safe to travel, go to the school to collect your child. your child will NOT be released otherwise
- if you are unable to reach the school, contact the designated guardian to collect your child.

For more information on how to prepare for an emergency please contact:

Provincial Emergency Program

<http://www.pep.bc.ca/index.html> or 1-888-811-6233

Salt Spring Island Neighborhood Preparedness Initiative

<http://ssipod.org/tikiindex.php> or 250-537-1220

Your emergency supplies

Be prepared to be on your own without help for 72 hours or more at home, in your car, at work. Assemble these emergency supplies and keep them in your emergency kit, stored in a secure place, ideally accessible from outside.

- First aid kit and instruction booklet.
- Shelter - a plastic tarp, a small tent, emergency ("space") blankets, or even some large garbage bags.
- Water - at least four litres of water per person, per day, in tight-lidded non-breakable containers. That's at least 12 litres per person for a three day supply.
- Keep a supply of water purification tablets in your emergency kit. Water also can be made safe to drink by using four drops of liquid household bleach in 4 1/2 litres of clear water or 10 drops in 4 1/2 litres of cloudy water. Replace stored tap water at least every six months.
- If the water is still running, fill a bathtub and other containers. Remember, there's water available too in a hot water tank and toilet reservoir.
- Food - keep a supply of nonperishable food handy, such as canned and dehydrated food, dried fruit and canned juices. Rotate periodically to keep them fresh. Remember a manual can opener.
- Flashlight and spare batteries. Keep the flashlight near your bed. Batteries should be separate in your kit.
- Battery AM/FM radio and spare batteries, stored separately in waterproof bags.
- Essential medication and supplies for infants, elderly persons and those with special needs. Keep at least a one-week supply in your emergency kit. Include copies of prescriptions for your medicine and glasses.
- Personal toiletry items - toilet tissue, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.
- Class ABC fire extinguisher. Keep it in a handy location in your home, after testing according to directions.
- Wrench (crescent or pipe) to turn off natural gas. Keep it in a handy place or in your emergency kit.
- Shoes - heavy enough to protect from broken glass and other debris. Keep them handy, wherever you are.

Other items you may wish to include:

- gloves, outdoor/winter clothing
- waterproof matches and candles, but don't use them if there are gas leaks or spilled flammable liquids
- money, including coins (25 cents) for telephones, because banks and credit cards may not be usable
- a sleeping bag for each member of your family
- garbage bags
- a portable toilet
- rope, heavy tape
- a crowbar or pry-bar
- a gasoline generator and a rated extension cord
- earthquake buddies for children (eg: stuffed animal, doll game)
- evacuation pack for each person (see below)
- vehicle pack for each
- vehicle
- office pack

Evacuation pack

The items in this list are in addition to the supplies in your home emergency kit. They should be kept in a separate pack (eg. in a tote bag) which each person would take individually if you have to evacuate.

- Food - dehydrated, dried fruit, high energy bars, etc – enough for 72 hours
- first aid kit and booklets
- survival manual
- flashlight and batteries
- money, including coins
- photographs of your family, friends
- gloves and other warm clothing