



TIP OF THE MONTH #6
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SAFETY TIPS FOR SETTING UP A FAMILY TENT

From the GHNA Disaster Preparedness Committee

If your home is uninhabitable after a disaster, and you cannot navigate the roads, you might want to set up a tent to temporarily house your family and yourself. If your home is unstable, set up the tent away from the house. Your tent should be placed 1.5 times the height of the house away from the house: e.g. If your house is 20 feet high, place the tent 30 feet away. This is because a falling wall will fall further away than its height as it comes down, due to gravity.

When setting up a family tent, put down a tarp on the ground to protect the bottom of the tent from tears, wearing out prematurely, and dirt in the assembly process. Alternatively, you can make a floor out of Tyvek or similar material to keep your tent off the ground.

Buy a bigger tent than you think you need, to accommodate pets, personal items you may not feel safe keeping in the house, and foodstuffs.

Identify potential spots in your yard for setting up in advance. Practice doing so. Keep in mind privacy and safety are major considerations. Ask yourself: Do you really want to set up in the front yard? If the front yard is the only option, figure out how to do it with some degree of privacy.

Things to look for when buying a tent: <https://www.big4.com.au/tips-and-inspiration/tips-advice/camping/buying-a-tent-10-handy-tips-to-help-you-make-the-best-tent>



Also bear in mind that you want the seams to be double-stitched. Tents should have awnings for moving water away from openings. Tents should be equipped with plenty of blankets; bringing a heating element inside a tent could be dangerous and is not recommended. Blankets can be stored with the tent. You should also purchase some toilet buckets at your emergency supply outlet.

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For more tips on preparing for a disaster, visit www.garfieldheights.org under DISASTER PREP.



GARFIELD HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

email: info@garfieldheights.org Website: www.garfieldheights.org

FaceBook: Garfield Heights Neighborhood Association

Mailing address: 1185 N. Marengo Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103 Phone: (626) 394-4777