



## TIP OF THE MONTH #3 NOVEMBER 2020

# Prepping your Home with Safety in Mind

From the GHNA Disaster Prep Committee

Your home is your haven; it's the place where you feel most secure, safe, and comfortable. But all of that can change suddenly when an accident or natural disaster endangers you or someone in your household. Safeguarding your home by removing potential hazards can minimize the impact of an emergency or a crisis. Like many things, home safety begins with awareness.

**The key is to plan ahead and systematically—room by room—reduce your risk of injury.**

- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors every month to ensure they work.
- Replace detector batteries 2 times a year. This is most commonly done when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings.
- Do not hang large pictures, mirrors or shelves above your bed. For other pictures you may want to use earthquake picture hangers.
- Fasten shelves securely and place heaviest objects on lower shelves. For precious objects you don't want to move, Quake Wax can help secure them.
- Brace overhead light fixtures and ceiling fans with a cable bolted to the ceiling joist.
- Strap water heater to wall studs.
- Anchor top-heavy furniture such as bookcases and file cabinets to the stud, using flexible fasteners to allow tall objects to sway without falling.
- Place oily polishing rags and product in covered metal trash cans.
- Store weed killers, pesticides and other flammable products away from heat sources.
- Carefully use and maintain space heaters and keep them away from anything flammable like blankets, curtains, etc.
- Brace or replace chimney according to current earthquake code. Clean and repair chimney, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents.
- Keep dryer exhausts free from flammable buildup by cleaning them regularly.
- Check foundation for cracks and note any ceiling or walls for cracks that may have resulted from shifts in house. Address/repair as necessary to mitigate further damage.
- Install a motion detector light in attic and basement stairways.
- Keep fire extinguishers in common areas like kitchen, near a fireplace, or heat source, and garage.
- Keep all toxic chemicals labeled clearly and never use old drink bottles or food containers to store household cleaners etc., as it can confuse children and adults.



**GARFIELD HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

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