

The California Earthquake Preparedness Survey Facts

Overview

The California Earthquake Preparedness Survey (CEPS) was conducted by the UCLA School of Public Health for the State of California on behalf of California Emergency Management Agency, California Seismic Safety Commission and CaliforniaVolunteers to describe how prepared California households are for earthquakes and where they get their information about preparedness and mitigation.

Preparedness Activities

- More than 60% of Californians have learned how to be safe during an earthquake, and have learned about the supplies they should have on hand. Residents of high-risk areas were more likely to have learned about how to be safe during an earthquake.
- Less than 35% have learned how to make their home structure safer or how to safeguard their finances in case there is an earthquake. Fewer than 20% of households had structurally reinforced their home or had their home inspected for earthquake resistance. Fewer than 20% of California households have purchased earthquake insurance.
- Hispanic respondents were the least likely among all racial/ethnic groups to prepare.
- Only 40% of Californians have made family disaster plans.
- Less than 20% have participated in neighborhood disaster planning. Northern California residents were more likely than others to have participated in neighborhood disaster planning.
- More than 65% of Californians reported being trained in first aid, less than 50% had participated in disaster trainings at work, and less than 20% have received specific disaster trainings. Hispanic respondents were the least likely to have received these types of training.
- More than 80% of households have first aid kits, flashlights and batteries in their house. Fewer than 50% have dust masks, tools to rescue trapped people, or an extra set of emergency supplies in the car.
- Only 40% keep the recommended minimum of three gallons of water stored per person.

Methodology

Telephone interviews were conducted with a probability sample of 2,081 households in California. The sample was divided into three areas: the 10 northern California counties at greatest risk of earthquakes, the six southern California counties at greatest risk, and the remaining 42 lower-risk counties.

