



PALO ALTO HUMANE SOCIETY

Helping animals through intervention, education, advocacy

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: AFTER THE DISASTER

AFTER THE DISASTER: IS IT SAFE?

Wear heavy shoes to avoid injury from broken glass and debris.

Check your house and surrounding area for hazards such as broken glass, loose boards with nails, overturned furniture, exposed electrical wires, smell of gas, downed power lines, broken fences, roof or chimney damage, etc.

- If you smell gas, turn off the main valve, open all windows, and leave the house. Do not switch on lights or light a match.
- Only turn off gas in an emergency. Then do not turn it back on until it has been inspected by the gas company.
- If you suspect a water leak, turn off the main valve.
- If you suspect electrical system damage, turn off the main circuit breaker.

Drink only water you have determined is safe to drink. If you are unsure, boil it for at least 20 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. You can also purify it with regular household bleach (16 drops of bleach per gallon of water). See information from the American Red Cross or other emergency agencies for further details on making water safe to drink.

Open cupboards and closets carefully.

Any disaster that disturbs your house can shift objects and cause them to fall out as soon as a door is opened.

AFTER THE DISASTER: IS IT SAFE FOR YOUR PET?

In a flood, check carefully for snakes or other animals that may have floated in. Some snakes are poisonous; call your local wildlife agency for advice.

In an earthquake, prepare for aftershocks.

Supervise your pet while outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may have disappeared, leaving your pet disoriented or confused.

Give your pet lots of reassurance and comfort, as it will be frightened. But don't overdo the attention. Allow your pet plenty of time and space to recover from the disaster.

Watch for signs of stress, such as changes in eating, drinking or sleeping, vomiting, diarrhea, fear, aggression, insecurity, etc. If symptoms are severe or last more than a week, consult your veterinarian.

Keep your pet away from wildlife, who are also stressed and unpredictable after a disaster.

Call your local wildlife rescue organization if you find a displaced animal. Do not feed wildlife; this will only create more problems.

Materials produced by the Palo Alto Humane Society in conjunction with the American Red Cross Northern California Disaster Preparedness Network

