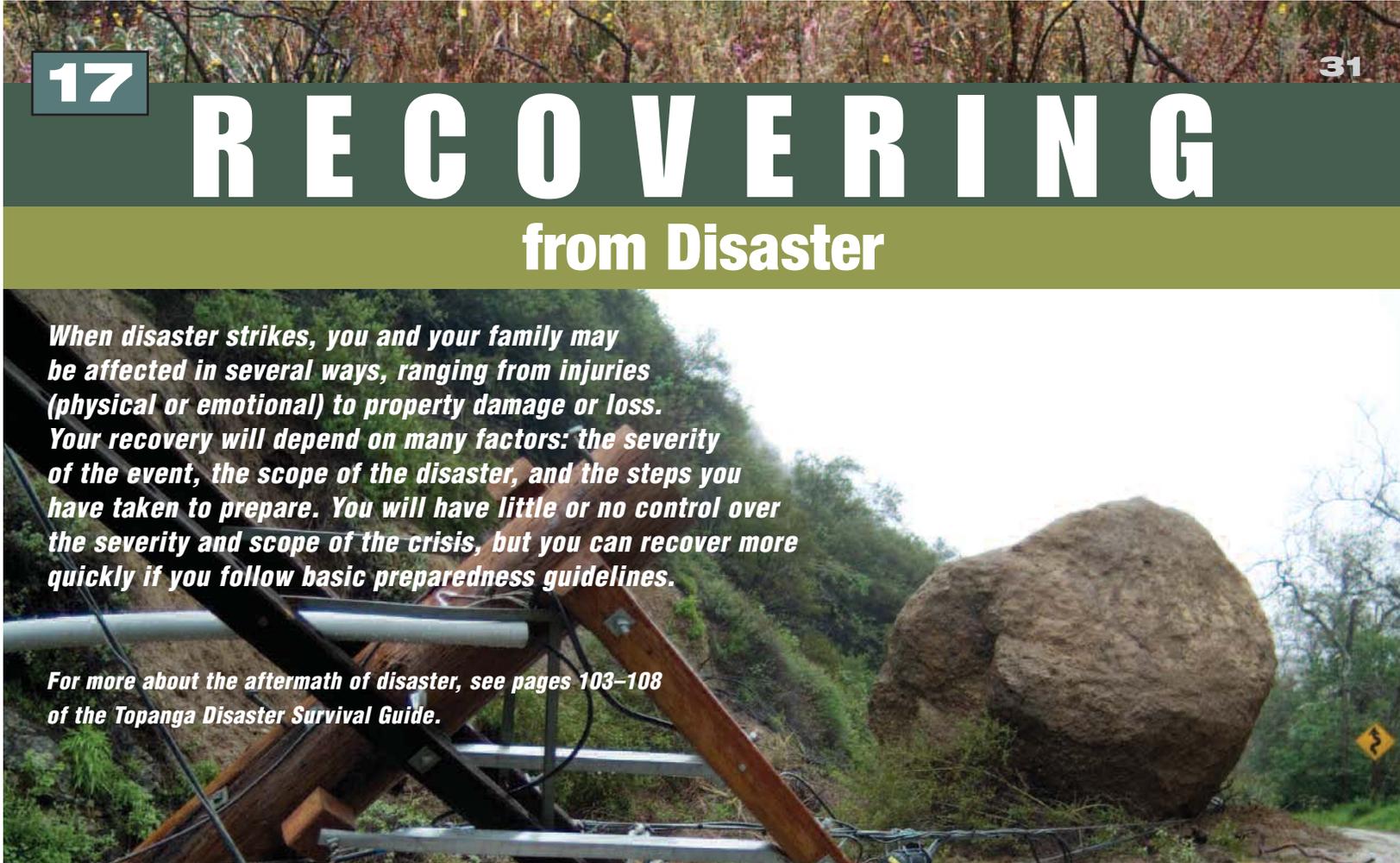


RECOVERING

from Disaster

When disaster strikes, you and your family may be affected in several ways, ranging from injuries (physical or emotional) to property damage or loss. Your recovery will depend on many factors: the severity of the event, the scope of the disaster, and the steps you have taken to prepare. You will have little or no control over the severity and scope of the crisis, but you can recover more quickly if you follow basic preparedness guidelines.

For more about the aftermath of disaster, see pages 103–108 of the Topanga Disaster Survival Guide.





Before the Disaster

- *Being prepared includes collecting all the information you might need to show to assisting agencies after a disaster and storing it in a safe place.
Be sure you include photos of family and pets to help your loved ones reunite.*

After the Disaster

- *Think SAFETY. Do not take risks; every job can be done safely, but you contribute to the problem if you end up hurt or injured.*
- *Do not enter severely damaged buildings, especially alone; wait for assistance and use safety gear.*
- *Use the chart below to identify things you can do and resources that can help.*

10 Steps to Recovery

This section provides tips for getting on the road to recovery.

	<i>What Can YOU do?</i>	<i>More Information</i>	<i>Who can help?</i>
1. Life Safety	<i>Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies. Learn basic life-saving skills beforehand by signing up for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.</i>	<i>Concentrate on you and your family first, then extend help to neighbors if it is safe to do so. Remember that in a major emergency it may be days before safety personnel can respond to your location.</i>	<i>Fire: 310-455-1766 Sheriff: 818-878-1808 CHP: 323-906-3405 LACDACC: 818-991-0071</i>
2. Get Information	<i>Listen to local radio and television reports. Visit local information centers such as shelters for health alerts and basic emergency information.</i>	<i>Immediately after an event, getting the correct information about your area can be a real challenge. Be sure that you know how to get information from public safety officials and reliable news sources. Many times community centers, churches, and schools are used as information hubs for local residents.</i>	<i>T-CEP hot line: 310-455-3000; www.t-cep.org LAUSD: 213-241-4500 CalTrans: 213-897-0383 CHP roads status: 818.880.0980; http://cad.chp.ca.gov/</i>
3. Find Shelter	<i>Include a ten-day supply of food and water in your emergency kit. Know likely areas where a shelter may be set up in your neighborhood; even if your residence is habitable, you will still need to know where you can find accurate and up-to-date information about the emergency.</i>	<i>Information on American Red Cross shelter locations will be provided to local media as soon as they are opened. Non-ARC shelters sometimes become available at additional sites. Special Needs shelters may also become available.</i>	<i>American Red Cross: 800-540-2000</i>

4. Register for Help

Assistance from the federal government may be available for home repair loans, business loans, housing, and other specific emergency needs. Keep a set of financial and insurance records in your emergency kit so you have the information you will need to complete applications.

If federal assistance is made available, you will need to register with FEMA or the Small Business Administration (SBA). Local Assistance Centers may be established to provide face-to-face assistance. Remember, FEMA/SBA assistance does not make you whole again, but it can give you a helping hand to recover.

Toll-free telephone numbers and instructions on how and where to register will be publicized if federal assistance is made available.

5. Get More Help

Contact local assistance providers for direct assistance with specific needs such as food and clothing, mental health counseling, medical assistance devices, materials in languages other than English, longer-term housing, and more.

Call 2-1-1. L.A. County provides information and referral services for a variety of health and community resources available in the County. Local Assistance Centers may also offer services to disaster victims. Don't forget, many employers that provide health insurance for their employees also have employee assistance services available; contact your insurer for more information.

Service referral 24 hours a day: 2-1-1

6. Stay Informed

Attend community meetings, monitor Web sites, and visit information centers to be sure you know what is happening in your community.

The recovery process begins once the immediate threat is over. Road closures, temporary ordinances, and business relocations are only a few of the recovery strategies that may be used during this phase. Programs aimed at assisting businesses and residents may be of benefit, but only if you know about them.

CalTrans: 213-897-0383

*T-CEP hot line: 310-455-3000;
www.t-cep.org*

	<i>What Can YOU do?</i>	<i>More Information</i>	<i>Who can help?</i>
7. Document, Document, Document	<i>If at all possible, keep a duplicate set of important documents out of town or in your emergency kit. As you do repairs, take before, during, and after pictures and document all damages. Keep all receipts for services and supplies.</i>	<i>Whether you receive FEMA grants, SBA loans, or other assistance, you will be required to present documentation for all claims. You may also need proof of employment, copies of insurance payments, and receipts for needed emergency equipment and supplies.</i>	
8. Utility Restoration	<i>If you have municipal gas service, turn off the gas at the meter if you smell gas. Keep a gas shut-off wrench in your emergency kit. If you have a propane tank, shut off the gas at the tank, and keep your propane company's phone number in your emergency kit. Know where your water shut-off valves are located.</i>	<i>Once your gas has been turned off at the meter, only the Gas Company or its designee should restore service to the residence.</i>	<i>So. Cal. Edison: 800-655-4555 L.A. County Public Works (Water): 800-675-4357 Verizon: 800-483-2000</i>
9. Rebuilding	<i>Pay attention to the credentials provided by contractors who want your business. Get multiple written bids for repair work and keep all receipts to document the work done. Consult the Web site for the Contractors State License Board before hiring.</i>	<i>Remember that unlicensed contractors can create more harm than good if they are not required to obtain building permits. You may jeopardize grants and loans if your contractors are disbarred or unqualified for the repairs you hire them to perform.</i>	<i>Contractors State License Board: 800-321-2752; www.cslb.ca.gov L.A. County Fire Prevention: 818-880-0341 L.A. County Building and Safety: 818-880-4150</i>
10. Assistance Limits	<i>Ask lots of questions and read the small print on offered loans and grants. Know what you can expect from your insurance policies and understand that you will have to declare your insurance proceeds to FEMA and the SBA if you accept funds.</i>	<i>To receive grant assistance from FEMA, you must fill out an SBA loan application. Grants and loans from these agencies are limited and intended to help you get back on your feet; they will not normally compensate you for your entire loss.</i>	<i>www.FEMA.gov</i>

Recovery Household Information

(Fill It In)

You will need this information
to begin the recovery process.

Name(s)

<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>SS #</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>SS #</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>SS #</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>SS #</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>

Residence

<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
<i>Home Phone</i>	<i>Cell Phone</i>	<i>E-Mail</i>
<i>Emergency Contact</i>	<i>Phone Number/Home</i>	<i>Cell Phone</i>

Recovery Household Information

Employment*Company/Firm**Phone Number**Company/Firm**Phone Number***Financial Information***Name of Institution**Type of Account**Account Number**Name of Institution**Type of Account**Account Number**Insurance Company/Home**Phone Number**Policy Number**Insurance Company/Medical**Phone Number**Policy Number**Insurance Company/Dental**Phone Number**Policy Number**Insurance Company/Life**Phone Number**Policy Number**Mortgage Company**Phone Number**Account Number*

Medical/Dental

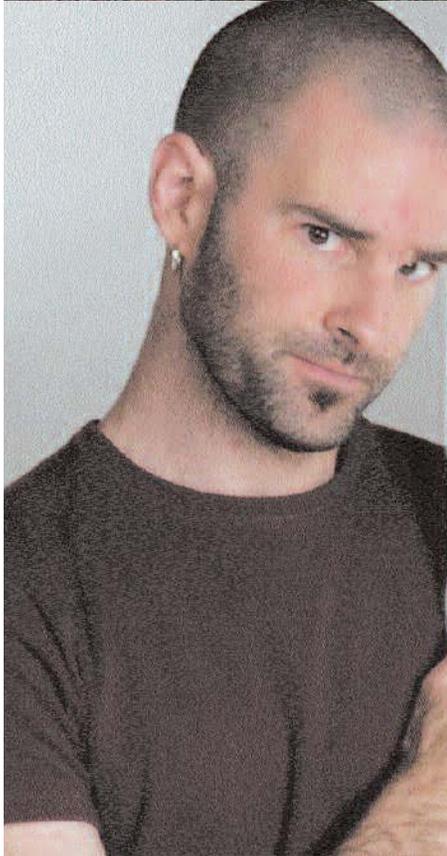
<i>Doctor</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
<i>Dentist</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>

Pets/Animals

<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Tag/Id #</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Tag/Id #</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Tag/Id #</i>
<i>Veterinarian</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	



Recovery Household Information



Vehicle(s)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>License Number</i>
<i>Year</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Model</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>License Number</i>
<i>Auto Insurance Co.</i>			<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Policy Number</i>

School(s)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>

Additional Information
