



Berkeley Emergency Preparedness Month: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Emergency Preparedness Month?

There are three components of this year's Emergency Preparedness Month:

- Preparedness events led by Berkeley CERT throughout the month.
- [Activities](#) that participants will do on their own, any day in October.
- A Citywide Emergency Exercise on October 17th

Each week in October has a preparedness theme. These themes include [emergency notifications and communications](#), [fire safety](#), [home earthquake readiness](#), and creative [food options](#) after disasters.

Why is Berkeley having an Emergency Preparedness Month?

In a serious emergency, such as a major earthquake on the Hayward Fault, the City's services may not be immediately available. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program has been developed to help us take care of ourselves and each other until more help is available. Many individuals and neighborhood preparedness groups plan to take care of themselves for two weeks.

Every member of the community can help! Whether you are young or old, you have a role to play. Your efforts in are essential to building our city's resilience.

Get ready together with these steps:

- [Sign up](#) and watch your email for tips, announcements and events
- Choose activities from the [Activity Guides](#) that work for you
- Participate in the Citywide Exercise on 10/17

Looking for more ways to get ready?

- Find free CERT skills training classes: www.cityofberkeley.info/CERT

Join us this year and practice the skills you will need to survive, reunite your family, help your neighbors, and rebuild our City together!



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What Preparedness Activities Should I Do?

At <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/prepare/activity-guides> you can find links to Activity Guides with various themes. Each Activity Guide has tasks that take just 5 minutes and others that take longer. You choose which works best for you.

The Guides cover:

- [Easy and Affordable Preparedness](#)
- [Preparing Your Home](#)
- [Renters and Apartments \(En Español\)](#)
- [Emergency Communications](#)
- [Food and Water Preparedness \(En Español\)](#)
- [Child Preparedness and Safety](#)
- [Pet Preparedness and Safety](#)
- [Neighborhood Damage Assessment](#)
- [Fire Safety and Suppression](#)

Depending on your interests and your available time, choose activities that work for you. For example, if you are a renter and live in the Berkeley Hills, you could focus on Renters' Activities and Fire Safety Activities. If you're short on time, choose from the Easy and Affordable Activity Guide.

You can do these activities anytime in October. If you are part of a neighborhood group, you can also join your group to practice together in the Citywide Exercise on October 17th

Why should I take part in the Preparedness Month?

We can't always prevent disasters, but we can survive them more easily and bounce back more quickly by preparing ourselves, our families, our homes and our neighborhoods.

The more you develop "muscle memory" about what to do and how to do it, the easier it will be for you to handle a real emergency.

Why should I register on the City's web site?

We know life gets busy and it's easy to put off preparedness activities. With your registration you will receive reminders, announcements and tips, following the weekly preparedness themes throughout the month. You'll also be counted as part of a community that is working hard to get ready together!



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How do I register for the Preparedness Month?

Go to <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/prepare> and fill in the requested information. If you are a member of an organized disaster preparedness Neighborhood Group there is a space to list the name of your Group.

How much time to I need to take for the Preparedness Month?

You decide how much time you can give to the Preparedness Month. Maybe you'll only be able to devote ten minutes. Or maybe you'll want to do several activities and spend two hours. If you're short on time, try the activities in the [Easy and Affordable Preparedness](#) guide. A little prep goes a long way!

Where and when does the 10/17 Exercise take place?

The exercise can take place *in every home, in every neighborhood, and in every workplace* on Saturday, October 17, 2015. It will start at 9 a.m. and continue until 11 a.m.

This is a self-directed exercise, which means that you can perform the exercise activities in your home or business, or with an organized neighborhood group.

The web page says there will be a Debriefing at 12 noon on October 17. Do I have to come to that too?

You are very welcome to come to the Debriefing, but you don't have to. It can be a good way to meet people who live near you. You might even find out there is a Neighborhood Group near enough for you to join.

What are the disaster risks in Berkeley?

Earthquakes, fires, landslides, floods, tsunamis, and hazardous materials releases are the primary hazards confronting Berkeley.

In a large-scale emergency, city services could be temporarily overwhelmed. A large earthquake on the Hayward Fault is expected to cause some fires and structural collapses in Berkeley and the possible loss of gas, water, and electric power that could last for days or weeks. However, even in "The Big One," by working together our community can stay safe and be ready to help others - that's what this month is all about.

Many Berkeley residents remember the Oakland-Berkeley Hills Firestorm of 1991. The Berkeley Hills are a fire risk at all times, and that risk is greater with the current drought. The skills practiced in this exercise are keys to keeping your home, family, and pets safe, calm, and comfortable if you need to evacuate.