

Jan & Roger's REAL ESTATE News & Views

*A fresh perspective on
market trends*

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*“By failing
to prepare,
you are
preparing to
fail.”*

—Benjamin Franklin



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Are You Ready? Living in Earthquake Country.



Dear Friends:

We all have heard Benjamin Franklin's saying that there are two things certain in life: death and taxes. But there is something else even more certain: Change. Whether it's in our job, our economy, our house value, our family size, our relationships, our fortune, our health, our clothing size, our viewpoints or even our dreams, *change is inevitable*. Even the earth on which we live is constantly changing—a truth underscored this past month as the lives of millions of Japanese were changed forever by a shifting earth and a stretching sea.

Always be Prepared.

The Boy and Girl Scouts have it right with their famous motto: "Be Prepared." Perfect advice, especially when it comes to earthquakes. But how many of us are truly prepared? According to the California Earthquake Authority fewer than 10% of California households are ready to weather the aftermath of a major quake. That leaves 90% of us at the mercy of fate! Of course, we can shift that statistic significantly by taking action today. Are you ready?

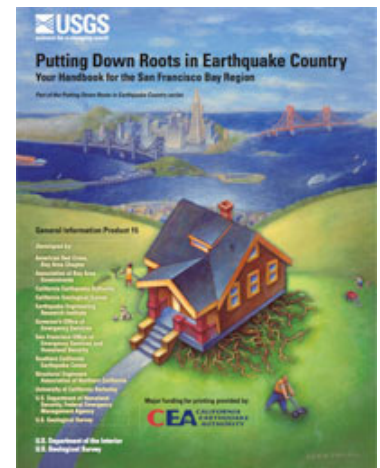
First Off, Have a Plan.

It's a simple thing to do, yet most of us haven't taken the time to come up with a plan for our family in the event of an earthquake. But a well-thought-out plan will bring you peace of mind and increase your odds of comfortably surviving a major catastrophe. Some things to consider:

- Where will your family be? How will you find them? *Consider an out-of-area friend or relative as a check-in point.*
- Will you be able to get home? *Keep a pair of walking shoes in your car and at work.*
- What if gas stations are closed for days or weeks? *Make sure you have enough gasoline...keep your tank at least 1/2 full.*

At Home. At Work. In Your Car.

Wherever you are, being prepared includes having an Earthquake Kit. For the home, your kit should be comprehensive, including enough food and water to last your family (and your pets) a minimum of 3 days. Some experts suggest having enough supplies to last 2 weeks. You also need a mini-version of this kit for your car and one for work/school. Make sure you include things like Sturdy Walking Shoes, a Note Pad & Pen, Extra Cash, Matches, a Knife, Twine or Wire, a local Map, and Dust Masks in addition to the typical first-aid kit and a flashlight. The California Earthquake Authority has an excellent publication, "Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country," filled with advice on preparing your home and your family for earthquakes. You can pick up a free copy at most major home improvement stores, like The Home Depot. Or, send us an e-mail and we'll forward to you a pdf version of the booklet.



On the real estate front, the shakiness of the market is subsiding even though we're not fully through the aftershocks. The month of March saw 244 homes go into contract county-wide, the highest number in *over two years!* If you're wondering where you stand in this market, call us today for a free evaluation. With proper planning, you'll have good footing whatever rolls your way.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our real estate service—

Roger Jan

*Copies can be ordered through: USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888)275-8747

Have you been shaken by the real estate market?

We can help you find stable footing. Call today. ***Your referrals build our business!***