

Prepare in a Year – November 2010

This is the eleventh of a series of short action articles that will enable you, over the next 12 months, to better take care of your family, friends, neighbors, and yourself in times of disaster. Create a “Safe Room” in your house where you can provide some protection against airborne chemical and other hazards. You can provide a partially sealed room that can provide shelter for several hours. A bathroom is a good candidate. With duct tape and some pre-cut plastic sheeting, you could quickly cover and seal a window, door, and vent from outside contaminants. With some planning and these materials plus a radio; you can afford your family additional protection until receiving further instructions from official sources. If you have been acting upon these preparation articles; you are well on your way to mitigating the consequences of disasters that will affect your family.

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This is the twelfth and last in a series of short action articles that will enable you, over the last 12 months, to better take care of your family, friends, neighbors, and yourself in times of disaster. This article suggests a fun family activity called a “Home Hazard Hunt.” In about 30 minutes, your family could identify objects and situations that would cause major problems during the shaking of an earthquake. Some findings could include heavy, unsecured bookcases, china cabinets, artwork, pictures, mirrors, hanging plants, heavy furniture, TVs, garage shelves, kitchen items, poisons / toxics / solvents, combustible materials, etc. Once you find ‘em; make definite plans and firm schedules to fix ‘em. If you have been acting upon these preparation articles; you have mitigated many of the consequences of disasters that will affect your family. Congratulations ! If you missed any of the articles, you can obtain the information at: http://www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_personal_preparedness.shtml