



## Rest Insured

BY JEFF GELINEAU  
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The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner

# Earthquakes: Before, During and After

There have been several earthquakes in Southern California this spring, and it reminds me that it's a good time to talk about being safe in a quake. Here are some tips:

### Before an Earthquake

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items including bottled foods, glass and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks. Get appropriate professional help.
- Install flexible pipefittings to avoid gas or water leaks.
- Secure your water heater, refrigerator, furnace and gas appliances by strapping them to the wall studs and bolting to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- Be sure the residence is firmly anchored to its foundation.
- Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products securely in closed cabinets.
- Hold earthquake drills with your family members: Drop, cover and hold on.

### During an Earthquake

#### If indoors:

- Drop to the ground; take cover by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and hold on until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, including lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Protect your head.
- Do not use a doorway except if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Do not exit a building during the shaking.
- Do not use the elevators.

#### If outdoors:

- Stay there. Move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

#### If in a moving vehicle:

- Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle.
- Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped.

#### If trapped under debris:

- Do not light a match.
- Do not move about or kick up dust.
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available.

### After an Earthquake

- When the shaking stops, look around to make sure it is safe to move. Then exit the building.
- Expect aftershocks.
- Help injured or trapped people. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance.
- Look for and extinguish small fires.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for the latest emergency information.
- Be aware of possible tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. Stay away from the beach.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Go to a designated public shelter if your home had been damaged and is no longer safe. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).
- Stay away from damaged areas.
- Be careful when driving after an earthquake and anticipate traffic light outages.
- Open cabinets cautiously.
- Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury from broken objects.
- Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage.
- Inspect utilities.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building.
- Look for electrical system damage.
- Check for sewage and water lines damage.

Of course, you probably should consider getting a quote for earthquake insurance as well. It does cost a lot of money, and it has a high deductible. But if it happens to you, you will be glad that you have it!

**Be safe and have fun!**

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Check out the City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website: [www.ua-insurance.com/city-club](http://www.ua-insurance.com/city-club)

### Have a question?

Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at [jeffg@ua-insurance.com](mailto:jeffg@ua-insurance.com), and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.



Presenting Walt Garrick (second from left) with a newspaper clipping are, from left: David Simich, Walt Garrick, Brian Pendleton, Chief Building Engineer, 30 years of City service; and Ralph Morones.



Walt Garrick, Retired Chief Building Operating Engineer, 43 years of City service, switches off the Central Utility Plant one last time.

## Airports

Story by Dalila Vielma, Club Counselor;  
Some information courtesy Amanda Parsons, Airports; Photos by Dalila Vielma and Jay Berkowitz



# Power On

**LAX invites retired operator to flip switch on its new state-of-the-art power plant.**

To switch the power from its old plant to a new, \$438 million state-of-the-art facility, Airports invited back Retired Chief Building Operating Engineer Walt Garrick. He accomplished the task at a public event March 11, when the 53-year-old former plant was shut down. The old plant had provided all of LAX's power since the plant came online in 1961.

The modern and more efficient new facility, located west of the LAX Theme Building in the middle of the Central Terminal Area, is now running.

The old plant is scheduled to be demolished. In its place will be constructed a 1.6 million gallon thermal energy storage tank with a new underground hot/cold water pipe network that will serve passenger terminals and other buildings. The new facility and systems will provide additional capacity for air conditioning, heating and lighting of the airline terminals and other airport buildings, which will enhance passenger comfort, and reliability of utility service and safety.

The new Central Utility Plant is designed to be approximately 25 percent more energy efficient than the prior Central Utility Plant and will meet all current air quality regulations. It will also minimize adverse environmental impacts on surrounding areas.

Retired engineers including Garrick and others had been assisting Airports with running the old plant during the transition to the newer plant. While current employees were being trained to operate the new plant, Airports needed others to assist with the final months of operation of the old plant. That cul-

minated in Garrick flipping the switch.

The new plant will double the airport buildings' cooling capacity and increase steam-heating capacity by about one-third to allow for future LAX construction. The plant's gas turbines will generate nearly nine megawatts of electricity for the airport, with excess power to be exported to the DWP's electrical grid.



From left: Robert Lopez, Chief Engineer, 19 years of City service; Edison Callegari, Engineer Facility Management, 25 years; and David Almanza, Engineer Facility Management, 20 years.



Manuel Cheng, Assistant Director, 34 years of City service.



From left: V. Seeram, Engineer Facility Management, 6 years of City service, and Nelson Marquez, Supervisor, 30 years.

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