

James Hultz
Director
Crown Point Emergency Management

Kelly Miller
Deputy Director
Crown Point Emergency Management

Safety at Home

During a disaster, ordinary objects in your home may cause injury or damage. However, there are simple steps you can take to make your home safer. Start by viewing each room with an “eye to prepare” and identify potential hazards – bookshelves that could tip over in an earthquake and block exits or heavy objects that could fall and cause injury.

- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and change batteries every 6 months.
- Move beds away from windows.
- Move mirrors and heavy pictures away from couches or places where people sit.
- Clear hallways and exits for easy evacuation. Try to refrain from keeping anything in a hallway. These could cause an injury if someone were to run into them when trying to get out of the house.
- Store heavy items on the lowest shelves.
- Keep an ABC type fire extinguisher on each level and know how and when to use them.
- Store flammable or highly reactive chemicals (such as bleach, ammonia, paint thinners) securely and separate from each other. Not only should these be kept locked away from children but in many cases if chemicals mix they can become even more hazardous if they are inhaled.
- Secure pictures and wall hangings and use restraints to secure heavy items such as bookcases and file cabinets.
- Know how and when to switch off your utilities. Be sure that you know the location and the proper way to use these valves. In you are unsure be sure to contact your local utility companies so they can instruct you on the proper process
- Ensure that all window safety bars have emergency releases.
- Be sure your home address number is visible from the street so emergency vehicles can find you. If your home is offset from the street you can contact your local fire department for reflective address signs. If you are close to the street ensure that your address numbers are near the main entrance of your home.

