Safety Actions and Messaging in Mobile Homes

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Mobile Homes in Earthquakes

Earthquakes threaten older mobile homes through collapse and fire

- Many older mobile homes rest on slender supports that overturn in earthquakes
- Collapse injures occupants & damages homes, contents, water heater, & utilities
- Collapse can render exits unsafe, especially for occupants fleeing a fire
- Fires spread faster between closely spaced dwellings. Narrow roads make fire department access harder.

How to Protect Your Home and Family
Mobile Homes in Earthquakes

Bracing can make a big difference

Mobile homes are 2 to 5 times more vulnerable than woodframe houses.

In strong shaking, 95% of unbraced mobile homes can fall off their foundations, as in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

In 3 mobile home parks in the Northridge earthquake, 1 in 7 mobile homes burned. Several ignitions were because of mobile home collapse.

Earthquakes much larger than 1989 and 1994 are inevitable and could happen any day.

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Reduce or prevent collapse

Good: Earthquake Resistant Bracing System (ERBS) $3,000-$5,000
Better: Engineered Tie-down System (ETS) $1,000-$2,000
Best: Reinforced concrete or reinforced masonry foundation $5,000-$50,000

Reduce or prevent fire

Brace water heater ($35-$200) AND
Flexible gas connection ($100)

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Ensure quality retrofit work

- Find the right contractor. For guidance, see www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/HireAContractor/FindingTheRightContractor.asp
- In California, consider a General Manufactured Housing Contractor. Check licenses at www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx
- Check ERBS certification. In California, have the contractor show you the ERBS complies with CA Adm. Code, Title 25, Chapter 2, Art. 7.5.
- Get the work permitted and inspected. California enforcement agencies are listed at ssw1.hcd.ca.gov/ParksListing/faces/parkslist/mp.jsp
- Monitor your contractor’s work as it is being done.

Other ways to reduce loss

- Practice Drop Cover and Hold On
- Put latches on cabinet doors
- Have water and food for at least 3 days, ideally 2 weeks
- Brace canopies and awnings
- Plan for emergencies with neighbors
- Consider mobile home earthquake insurance www.EarthquakeAuthority.com
- Do one or more of these yearly.