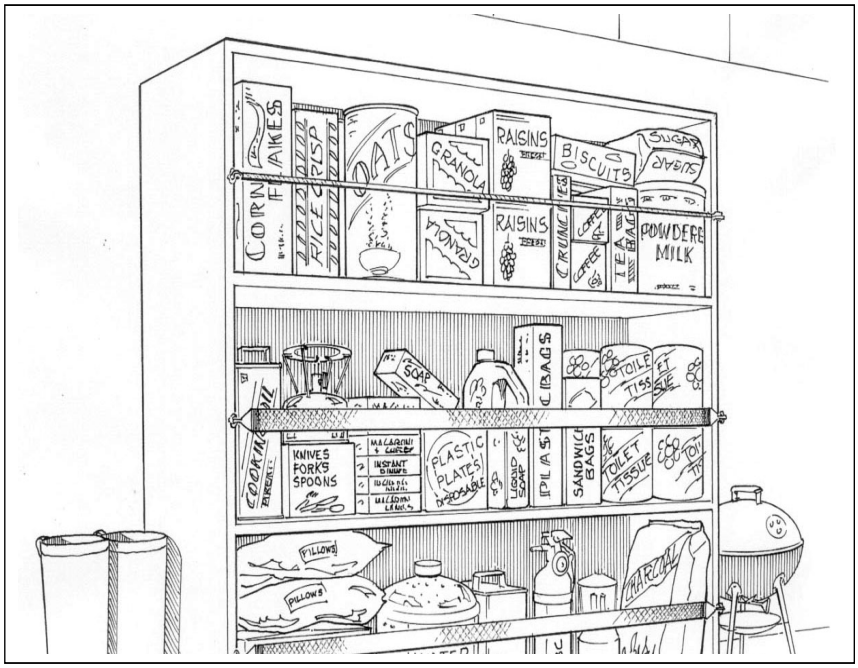
What to do to
Make it Through

Garage & Storage Safety

The ground movement of an earthquake can cause chemical products you have stored in your garage, under the sink or in the closet to spill and potentially mix. These materials can cause injury or be silent killers.

Before a Disaster— Secure all chemicals so that they cannot fall, break or mix.

- Identify poisons, toxins and solvents in breakable containers on open shelves.
- Move heavy objects to lower shelves.
- Secure open shelves with nylon webbing. **Do not use bungee cords.** They could become dislodged and cause serious injuries.
- Store paint, gasoline and other flammable liquids **away** from natural gas water heaters.
- Separate chemicals according to manufacturers' suggestions to prevent harmful interactions if containers break. (Ex. household bleach & ammonia create a deadly chlorine gas)
- Know what steps to take if chemicals are spilled.
- Dispose of hazardous materials that are no longer used.



After a Disaster— Safety with chemicals

- Assume spilled chemicals are toxic.
- Do not immediately approach spilled chemicals.
- Close off the room where a spill has occurred.
- Mark the outside of the room with the problem.
- Alert your neighborhood response team or first responders at scene.

How hazardous materials enter the body:

- Inhalation (breathing) - the most common way
- Absorption - through eyes or skin
- Ingestion - swallowing
- Injection - something that punctures the skin

Indicators a spill has happened:

Strong odor
Bubbling liquid
Vapors