



## Water is vital to survival

In a disaster, water supplies may be cut off or contaminated. Store enough water for everyone in your family to last for at least 7 days. More is better!

### When storing water, make sure you keep the following points in mind:

- Store a gallon of water per person per day.
- Seal water containers tightly in a clean food-grade plastic container, label them with a date, and store in a cool, dark place.
- Rotate your water supply every 6 months.
- Keep a small bottle of unscented liquid bleach to purify water.
- If you have concerns about your water safety do one of the following:
  1. Boil water for at least five minutes, let cool, then drink or use to prepare food, or
  2. Add 8 drops of unscented liquid bleach to each gallon of water. Shake or stir, then let stand 30 minutes. A slight chlorine taste and smell is normal.
  3. If you run out of stored drinking water, strain & treat water from your water heater. To strain the water, pour it through a clean cloth or layers of paper towels, and then treat the water in the manner specified in the directions above.

### If after an earthquake you are attempting to locate additional drinking water, check the following:

- In your home... Melt ice cubes.
- In your hot water tank... Turn off the power that heats it, and let the tank cool. Then place a container underneath and open the drain valve at the bottom of the tank. Don't turn the tank on again until water services are restored.
- Toilet tank... The water in the tank (not the bowl) is safe to drink unless chemical treatments have been added.
- Water pipes... Release air pressure into the plumbing system by turning on the highest faucet in the house. Then drain the water from the lowest faucet.
- Outside the home... Rain water, spring water, and water from streams, river, lakes, and coiled garden hoses can be used after it is purified.

Store the water you have collected in a clean and sanitary glass or plastic container. Plastic containers are good because they are lightweight and unbreakable. Metal containers should be considered as a last resort because they may corrode and give water an unpleasant taste.

### Remember!

Water is the single most abundant substance in the human body, making up to 60 percent of an adult's weight and up to 80 percent of an infant's weight. A person can live several days without food, but just a few days without water. It is second only to air in importance to life.