

## Earthquake Guide For Motorists

*Most of us are familiar with the techniques of responding to a quake while indoors, but how does one respond if an earthquake occurs while driving? Given the amount of time spent traveling, motorists should be prepared for major emergencies. These safety tips for motorists are offered in hopes that the information will better prepare you on the road.*

### **BE ALERT**

Experiencing an earthquake while in a moving vehicle has been compared to driving on four flat tires. If an earthquake occurs while you are driving:

- Gradually decrease speed.
- Pull to the side of the road.
- Do not stop on or under overpasses or bridges.
- Avoid parking near trees, downed power lines and buildings.
- Stop the car and stay down on the floor.
- Remain in your car until the shaking stops.
- Keep in mind that aftershocks follow the initial earthquake.
- Turn on your car radio and listen for advisories. (Most radio stations are prepared to broadcast emergency information).
- Do not drive until it's safe and avoid overpasses or bridges as they may have been weakened.
- If driving on the freeway, and if it's safe to do so, exit at the first opportunity.
- Cooperate with public safety officers because they are trying to ensure your safety and that of others.

### **BE PREPARED**

Be prepared by stocking the following items in your vehicle:

- First aid kit (bandages, gauze, tape, etc.)
- Bottled water
- Non-perishable foods
- Blanket or Sleeping bag
- Flashlight with extra batteries and bulb
- Fire extinguisher (CO2)
- Pocket radio with extra batteries
- Tissues and pre-moistened towel
- Tools (screwdriver, pliers, wire, pocket knife, can opener)
- Extra clothes
- Short rubber hose for siphoning
- Sealable plastic bags
- Local maps
- Matches
- Toiletries
- Gloves