

Napa's neighbors to the rescue

Memories of the Loma Prieta earthquake 25 years ago may have faded, but on August 24 when the West Napa Fault ruptured, Californians received an early morning reminder that we still live in earthquake country.

The 6.0 magnitude earthquake jolted the Bay Area, damaging parts of the City of Napa's infrastructure and leaving many residents and businesses without water.

Fortunately, EBMUD and other nearby utilities were unaffected by the earthquake, which freed up resources for Napa almost immediately. Facing more main breaks in its water distribution system than they typically get in an entire year, the City of Napa requested mutual assistance through the California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN). This statewide partnership of water utilities joined forces to provide crews, equipment and a can-do-attitude to help Napa. Within 24 hours, EBMUD dispatched three crews and support staff to Napa and two days later two more crews were ready to help, tools in hand.

EBMUD crews worked shoulder to shoulder with various agencies including Napa, Alameda County Water District, Contra Costa Water District and the City of Fairfield crews. Days after the earthquake, the Bay Area water agencies repaired 144 main breaks with EBMUD crews repairing 56 of them.

EBMUD crews repaired main breaks in the City of Napa following the magnitude-6.0 earthquake; the Bay Area's strongest in 25 years.

Knowing that any single water agency will be overwhelmed by the damage after a large earthquake, EBMUD participates in CalWARN plus has separate agreements with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Las Vegas Valley Water District to provide mutual assistance after a disaster. Thanks to these partnerships, EBMUD is better prepared to get the water back on when a disaster strikes.



No H₂O? Tips for stashing emergency water

If the “big one” happened on the Hayward Fault, the earthquake may result in thousands of main breaks, potentially leaving thousands or more without water at homes and businesses for days, weeks or longer. Your emergency supplies can bridge the gap until relief agencies arrive and set up temporary water stations. Start your water storage with these tips.

- ◆ Include in your disaster kit a propane camp stove and a pot to boil water to disinfect.
- ◆ Stock one to two gallons of water per person per day for at least three to seven days or as much as you have space for at your home or business. Our canine and feline friends need about one gallon each per day.
- ◆ Store tap water in clean, airtight food-grade plastic containers. Storage containers come in all sizes from pouches to 55-gallon drums. Avoid storing water in used containers or glass.
- ◆ Keep water containers in a cool, dark place, and separate from toxic substances.
- ◆ Label containers with the storage date and rotate emergency water supplies every six months or as directed by the manufacturer.

Did you know?

If boiling water is not possible during a disaster, you can disinfect water using household bleach. You'll need unscented liquid bleach, measuring spoons or a clean medicine dropper. Add 1/4 teaspoon or 16 drops of bleach to each gallon of water, stir and let it stand for 30 minutes before using.



Room for change

This year, the Oakland Marriott City Center added water conservation to its menu of amenities. The hotel is among 16 businesses, government agencies and organizations recognized by EBMUD for outstanding water conservation.

The Marriott capitalized on a \$32,000 EBMUD rebate to make efficiency upgrades. The hotel now boasts 320 high-efficiency toilets, low-flow bathroom faucet aerators and new cooling towers. The result? Water savings of 2.1 million gallons annually. The water savings can supply the indoor water needs for 29 households for one year.




Michael Stollger, Oakland Marriott City Center's engineering director

“Lower utility bills benefit everyone: customers, employees and our bottom line,” said the Marriott's engineering director Michael Stollger. EBMUD rebates can make your home or business water efficient. Visit www.ebmud.com/watersmart.

Congrats

- Alameda Municipal Power
- Autumn Press, Inc.
- Bacchus Press, Inc.
- Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
- Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce
- City of Alameda Public Works Department, Central Equipment Garage
- City of Berkeley
- Contra Costa Association of Realtors
- David Brower Center
- Give Something Back - Oakland
- Grandma's Garage
- Hesperian Cleaners
- I Song Orthodontics
- Lake Merritt Dental
- Oakland Marriott City Center
- Revolution Foods



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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.