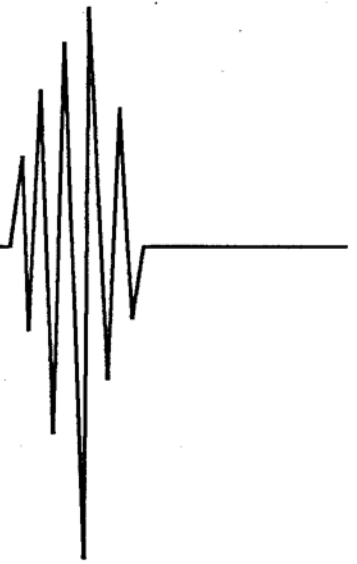


# SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN AN EMERGENCY



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

In an emergency such as a large magnitude earthquake, sewer lines will probably be damaged and become inoperable. Sewage may back up and broken water lines may become contaminated by sewage.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If stoppage in sewer lines is suspected or obvious, discontinue discharge of wastewater in house or building sinks and drains, and stop flushing toilets. Avoid contact with any overflowing waste water or sewage.

## IF I CAN'T FLUSH THE TOILET, WHAT CAN I USE?

- Large extra-strength trash bags (double bagged) may be placed in water tight plastic or metal containers, with tight fitting lids, or used as liners in toilets. Household disinfectant can be used for odor control. Final disposal can be by burying or by sanitary sewer when notified by public officials.
- A dug latrine or trench 2' to 3' deep can be used to bury human waste. Spread a thin layer of powdered lime or dry chlorine bleach and a layer of earth each time it is used.
- Portable camp toilets, RV toilets, porta-potties, etc. may also be used.
- High occupancy complexes such as apartments, condominiums, and office buildings should consider making arrangements to obtain commercial chemical toilets.

## WHAT ABOUT A SEWAGE OVERFLOW IN MY HOUSE?

- Wash all contaminated areas with detergent and water, then rinse with a sanitizing solution of one tablespoon household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) to each gallon of water.
- Be sure to clean and sanitize all contaminated areas — pay special attention to cooking utensils, work surfaces, and other surface areas such as floors and walls with which your family and pets may come in contact.