

Mobile Homes in Earthquakes

How to protect your home and family



Courtesy National Information Service for Earthquake Engineering, University of California, Berkeley.

Earthquakes threaten older mobile homes through collapse and fire

- Many older mobile homes rest on slender supports that overturn in earthquakes
- Collapse injures occupants & damages homes, contents, water heater, & utilities
- Collapse can render exits unsafe, especially for occupants fleeing a fire
- Fires spread faster between closely spaced dwellings. Narrow roads make fire department access harder.

Bracing can make a big difference

Mobile homes are


2 to 5
times more
vulnerable than
woodframe
houses

In strong shaking,


95% of
unbraced mobile
homes can fall off
their foundations,
as in the 1994
Northridge
earthquake.

In 3 mobile home parks
in the Northridge
earthquake,



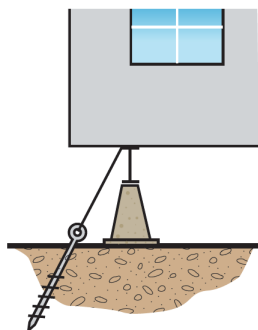
1 in 7 mobile homes
burned. Several
ignitions were because
of mobile home
collapse.



Earthquakes
much larger than
1989 and 1994
are inevitable
and could
happen any day.

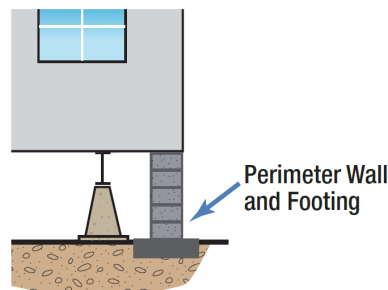
How to protect your home and family

Reduce or prevent collapse



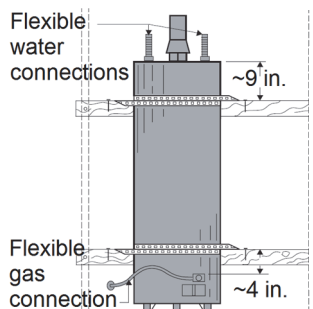
Good: Engineered Tie-down System (ETS)
\$1,000-\$2,000

OR



Best: Reinforced concrete or reinforced masonry foundation
\$5,000-\$50,000

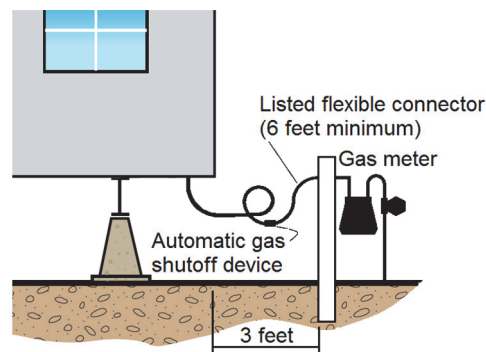
Reduce or prevent fire



◀ Brace water heater (\$35-\$200)

AND

Flexible gas connection (\$100) ▶



Ensure quality retrofit work

- Find the right contractor. For guidance, see <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/HireAContractor/FindingTheRightContractor.asp>
- In California, consider a General Manufactured Housing Contractor. Check licenses at <https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicenseII/CheckLicense.aspx>
- Check ETS certification. In California, have the contractor show you the ETS complies with CA Adm. Code, Title 25, Chapter 2, Art. 7.
- Get the work permitted and inspected. California enforcement agencies are listed at <https://ssw1.hcd.ca.gov/ParksListing/faces/parkslist/mp.jsp>
- Monitor your contractor's work as it is being done.

Other ways to reduce loss

- Practice Drop Cover and Hold On
- Put latches on cabinet doors
- Have water and food for at least 3 days, ideally 2 weeks
- Brace canopies and awnings
- Plan for emergencies with neighbors, <http://bit.ly/MobileHomePlanning>
- Consider earthquake insurance, www.earthquakeauthority.com
- Do one or more of these yearly
- See www.shakeout.org for more info



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Prepared by SPA Risk LLC and Henderson Creative