

# **GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**



## **DO'S AND DON'TS**



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## Do's and Don'ts for various Hazards

### Cyclone Safety

#### Do's before and during a cyclone

- Have your houses checked before a cyclone season starts and carry out whatever repairs that are needed.
- Talk to children and explain about cyclones without scaring them.
- Create storm awareness by discussing effects of a cyclonic storm with family members so that everyone knows what one can and should do in an emergency. This helps to remove fear and anxiety and prepares everyone to respond to emergencies quickly.
- Keep your valuables and documents in containers, which cannot be damaged by water.
- Keep information about your blood group.
- Keep torches and spare batteries. These must be kept in secure places and handy.
- Make plans for people who are either sick, suffer from disabilities, aged and children /pergnant women.
- Store up at least seven-day stock of essential food articles, medicines and water supply.
- Keep blankets & clothes ready for making beds. Also keep cotton bandages.
- Store some wooden boards so that they can be used to cover windows.
- Keep trees and shrubs trimmed. Remove damaged and decayed parts of trees to make them resist wind and reduce the potential for damage. Cut weak branches and make winds blow through.
- All doors, windows and openings should be secured.
- Continue to listen to warning bulletins and keep in touch with local officials. Keep radio sets in working condition. Battery powered radio sets are desirable.
- Evacuate people to places of safety when advised.
- Take steps to protect your assets.
- Store extra drinking water in covered vessels.
- Remain calm.

#### Don'ts during a Cyclone

- During the storm do not venture out unless advised to evacuate.
- If you have a vehicle and wish to move out of your house, leave early before the onset of a cyclone. It is often best to stay at home.
- Avoid remaining on the top floor of houses. Stay close to the ground.
- Fishermen are advised not to venture out into the sea. They should keep boats and rafts tied up in a safe place.
- Avoid taking shelters near old and damaged buildings or near trees.

- Do not touch power lines. One may get electrocuted.

### **Do's after the Cyclone**

- Watch out for broken glass and other sharp items in debris.
- Watch out for snakes and insects.
- Listen to the advice of local officials and emergency workers.
- Be sure that the storm has subsided before venturing out.
- It is advisable to wait for the "all clear message" on radio and TV networks.
- Wait for emergency relief teams to arrive. It may take a little time before relief becomes effective.
- Stay away from flooded areas.
- Fishermen should wait for at least 24 hours before resuming fishing.
- Volunteer to help people who may need assistance like:
  - o Bringing evacuated people back home and in recording damages suffered
  - o Rendering first aid to the wounded
  - o Donating blood
  - o Locating places where dead bodies can be kept until they are disposed off
  - o Organizing clearing-up so that normalcy returns as soon as possible

## **Do's and Don'ts for various Hazards**

### **Earthquake safety**

#### **Do's and don'ts before Earthquake**

- Tell the facts about earthquake to your family members
- Construct new buildings with earthquake resistant method and strengthen the old buildings
- Insure your house and family members
- Take the training for first aid and fire fighting
- Do not keep cots near the glass window
- Do not keep heavy and fragile things in the shelves
- Do not hang photo frames, mirrors, or glasses up your bed
- Keep your important documents, some cash and necessary articles ready in a bag
- Get your house insured before the earthquake
- Identify special skills of neighbor (medical, technical) so that it can be utilized in emergency

#### **Do's and don'ts during Earthquake**

- Do not panic
- If already inside, than Stay indoors! Get under a heavy desk or table and

hang on to it.

- If fire breaks out, drop on the floor and crawl towards the exit
- If you are out doors during the quake, keep away from buildings, trees and electricity lines. Walk towards open places, in a calm and composed manner.
- If you are driving, quickly but carefully move your car as far out of traffic as possible and stop. Do not stop on or under a bridge or overpass or under trees, light posts, power lines, or signs. Stay inside the car until shaking stops
- If you are in a school, get under a desk or table and hold on

### **Do's and don'ts after the Earthquake**

- Do not be afraid of the aftershocks
- Listen to radio-TV and other media for Government Announcement
- Check for injuries to yourself and those around you. Take first aid where you can
- Extinguish fire, if any
- Examine walls, floors, doors, staircases and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing
- Do not enter into the unsafe or risky houses or buildings
- Inspect for Gas leaks-If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noises, open the windows and quickly leave the building. Don't light your kitchen stove if you suspect a gas leak.
- Do not keep telephone lines busy unnecessarily
- Switch off electric lines

### **Do's and Don'ts for various Hazards**

#### **Fire safety**

#### **Do's**

- Buy Fireworks from the licensed shop.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Store crackers away from source of fire or inflammation
- Follow all safety precautions issued with the fire works
- Go to open spaces like playgrounds, fields
- Light them at arm's length using a taper.
- Stand back while lighting the crackers
- Discard used fireworks in a bucket of water
- Keep buckets of water and blankets ready, in case a firebreaks out.
- Wear thick cotton clothes for maximum safety from fire.
- If clothes catch fire, Stop, Drop and Roll
- In case of uncontrolled fire wrap the victim in a blanket, till it stops.

- In case of burns splash tap water (not ice water), the process may be repeated till the burning sensation reduces.
- If fingers or toes are burned, separate them with dry, sterile, non-adhesive dressings.
- Make sure the burn victim is breathing, if breathing has stopped or if the victim's airway is blocked then open the airway and if necessary begin rescue breathing.
- Elevate the burned area and protect it from pressure and friction.
- Cover the area of the burn with a moist sterile bandage, or clean cloth (do not use blanket or towel for healing burns).
- Consult the doctor as soon as possible for the proper medication
- Consult an ophthalmologist immediately in case of eye injuries.
- Contact at the Fire Brigade (Tel. No. 101), for getting the details of the doctors on duty during the festival.

### **Don'ts**

- Don't burn crackers in crowded, congested places, narrow lanes or inside the house.
- Don't let children burst crackers unaccompanied by an adult
- Don't put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Don't cover crackers with tin containers or glass bottles for extra sound effect
- Don't dare to examine unburst crackers.. .leave it!! Light a new cracker
- Don't show the Dare-devilry of lighting crackers on own hands.
- Don't use fireworks inside a vehicle
- Avoid long loose clothes, as they are fast in catching fire
- Don't remove burnt clothing (unless it comes off easily), but do ensure that the victim is not still in contact with smoldering materials.
- Don't apply adhesive dressing on the burnt area.
- Don't break the burst blister

## **Do's and Don'ts for various Hazards**

### **Flood Safety**

#### **Do's and Don'ts after flood**

- There is a possibility of spread of water borne diseases after flood, and hence medical treatment should be taken immediately.
- Do not enter deep, unknown waters.
- Do not go near the riverbank even after the floodwater has receded.
- Sprinkle medicines in the stagnant dirty water.
- Inspect your house for any cracks or other damage. Check all the walls, floor, ceiling, doors and windows, so that any chance of house falling down

can be known and you can be aware about the immediate danger.

- If the floodwater has entered the house or has surrounded the house, then it is advisable not to enter such house.
- Keep listening to weather forecast on radio and television. Move to your residence only when instructed by the competent authority. It is not safe to believe that the problems have ended after the flood water have receded
- Inform the competent authority/officer for restoration of the necessary connections like gas, electricity, telephone, drainage, etc.
- Beware of the various insects or poisonous snakes that may have been dragged inside the house along with the floodwater.
- Destroy the food commodities that have been affected by floodwater.
- Check properly all the electric circuits, floor level furnace, boilers, gas cylinders, or electric equipments like motor pump etc. Check whether any inflammable or explosive item has not entered along with the floodwater.
- Switch off the main electric supply, if any damage is noticed to the electric equipments.
- If you find any breakage in the drainage system stop using latrines and do not use tap water.
- Do not use polluted water.
- Sewerage system should be checked and any damage should be repaired immediately so as to curtail spread of diseases.
- Empty the water clogged in the basement slowly with help of water pump so that damage to infrastructure can be minimized
- Check gas leakage which can be known by smell of gas or by hearing the sound of leakage; immediately open all windows and leave the house.
- Boil drinking water before usage and drink chlorinated water.
- Eat safe hygienic food.
- Rescue work should be undertaken immediately after flood situation as per the instruction. Do not follow any shortcut for rescue work.
- Do not try to leave the safe shelter to go back home until the local officials declare normalcy after flood and instruction to return home are not given.

### **Do's and Don'ts for various Hazards**

#### **Tsunami Safety**

##### **Do's and Don'ts before Tsunami**

- Be familiar with the tsunami warning signals. People living along the coast should consider an earthquake or a sizable ground rumbling as a warning signal. A noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters is also a sign that a tsunami is approaching.

- Make sure all family members know how to respond to a tsunami. Make evacuation plans. Pick an inland location that is elevated.
- After an earthquake or other natural disaster, roads in and out of the vicinity may be blocked, so pick more than one evacuation route.
- Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water
- Children should be taught in advance about the evacuation plans
- Prepare emergency kit beforehand. The emergency kit should contain Flashlight and extra batteries, battery-operated radio and extra batteries, First aid kit Emergency food and water, Essential medicines etc.

### **Do's and Don'ts during Tsunami**

- Listen to a radio or television to get the latest emergency information, and be ready to evacuate if asked to do so.
- If you hear a tsunami warning, move at once to higher ground and stay there until local authorities say it is safe to return home.
- Move in an orderly, calm and safe manner to the evacuation site
- Stay away from the beach. Never go down to the beach to watch a tsunami come in.
- If you can see the wave you are too close to escape it.
- Return home only after authorities advise it is safe to do so.

### **Do's and Don'ts after Tsunami**

- Stay tuned to a battery-operated radio for the latest emergency information.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Enter your home with caution. Use a flashlight/torch when entering damaged buildings. Check for electrical shorts and live wires.
- Do not use appliances or lights until an electrician has checked the electrical system.
- Open windows and doors to help dry the building.
- Shovel mud while it is still moist to give walls and floors an opportunity to dry.
- Check food supplies and test drinking water.
- Fresh food that has come in contact with flood waters may be contaminated and should be thrown out.