

# 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,

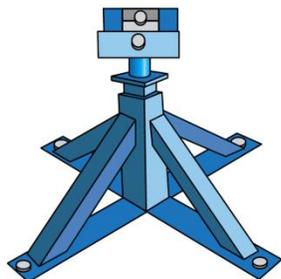
  
  
**1 in 7** mobile homes burned. Several ignitions were because of mobile home collapse.



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

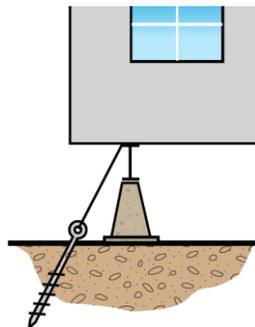
# How to protect your home and family

## Reduce or prevent collapse



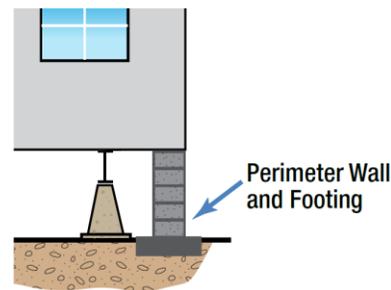
**Good:** Earthquake Resistant Bracing System (ERBS)  
\$3,000-\$5,000

OR



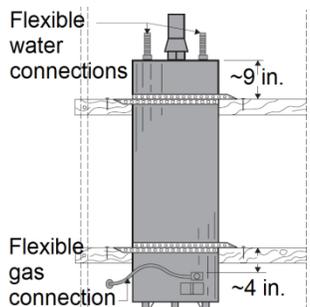
**Better:** Engineered Tie-down System (ETS)  
\$1,000-\$2,000

OR



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

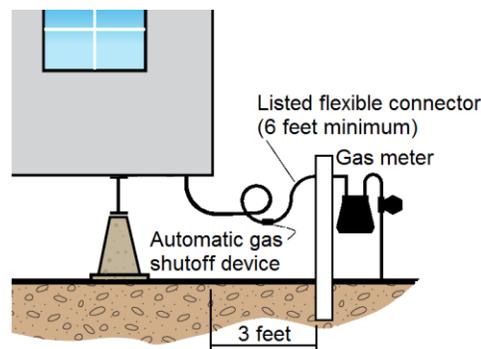
## Reduce or prevent fire



◀ 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/CheckLicenses/CheckLicense.aspx>
- Check ERBS certification. In California, have the contractor show you the ERBS complies with CA Adm. Code, Title 25, Chapter 2, Art. 7.5.
- 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](http://www.earthquakeauthority.com)
- Do one or more of these yearly
- See [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) for more info