Preparedness PROJECT

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Bracing Outdoor Structures

Strengthen rafter joists of lighter roofs (asphalt, shingles, wood shakes and light weight metal roofs) with straps. Provide extra bracing and stiff diaphragm for concrete or clay tile roofs.

Cross brace in both directions between support posts of decks built on hillsides. Avoid standing on or near decks during or after an earthquake.

Provide extra bracing (steel) in high chimneys but do not tie house structure to chimney.

Inspect all brick above roof line every 6 months for mortar disintegration cracks.

Avoid building home adjacent to tall trees as well as newly cleared areas with spindly trees. These will be more susceptible to falling over during strong winds or an earthquake.

Some trees, like mature pines, have very shallow root balls. But these root balls, when interfaced with neighboring trees' rootballs, form a very strong root network that creates stability. Be careful when clearing these trees from your property. Two or three trees left to stand alone are more apt to topple over during a wind storm or earthquake than a group of several trees.