RE: Proper Conduct Upon the Occurrence of an Earthquake

A number of earthquakes occurred this week in the north of the country. We deem it fitting to refresh the guidelines on the matter.

This procedure was issued by the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for Gearing Up for Earthquakes at the Office of the Prime Minister.

When sojourning inside a building, act as per the following sequence of priorities:

a. If it is possible to exit the building within a matter of seconds - exit the building for an open area (mainly aimed at those sojourning in a single story building or on the ground floor of a multi-story building).

b. If it is not possible to exit the building quickly - access the bomb proof protected area. Leave the door of the bomb proof protected area open.

c. If it is not possible to exit the building quickly and there is no bomb proof area - access the stairwell and, if possible, continue descending to the exit point of the building.

d. Only if you are unable to act in this manner - take cover under a heavy piece of furniture or sit on the floor next to an interior wall.

When sojourning outside in the open:

Should the earthquake occur when you are outside of the building - remain in the open area and stay far away from buildings, bridges and electricity pylons.

When sojourning on the beach:

If you are at the beach when an earthquake occurs, leave the beach immediately out of an apprehension that a tsunami will sweep the beach.

Move as least 1 kilometer away from the beach.

Anyone who is unable to leave the beach area should ascend to at least the 4th floor of a nearby building.

Do not return to the beach for a 12 hour period after the earthquake. A sudden and powerful ebb of sea water is a sign of an approaching tsunami.

Proper conduct after an earthquake:

- Exit the building and make sure to remain in an open area, far from buildings and from torn electricity wires.
- Prepare and take the family emergency kit with you.
- Listen to the media for instructions.

Additional Guidelines

- Prior to exiting the building - shut off the main gas valve and electrical switch.
- On the way to a safe place, stay away from exterior walls of buildings, from windows and from windowsills.
- Do not use the elevator during and after an earthquake - there is a risk of getting stuck inside the elevator.
- If you are confined to a wheel chair - lock the wheels and protect your head (after reaching a safe area).

The Homeland Command website

Regards,

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