



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH County of Riverside

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN NO. 45-92-DES

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN AN EMERGENCY

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

In a large magnitude earthquake sewer lines may be damaged and become inoperable. Sewage may back up and broken water lines may become contaminated by sewage.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If stoppage in sewer lines is suspected or obvious, discontinue discharge of wastewater in house or building drains and stop flushing toilets. Avoid contact with any overflowing wastewater or sewage.

WHAT CAN I USE INSTEAD?

- 1) A latrine or trench dug 2'-3' deep can be used to bury human waste. Spread a thin layer of powdered lime and a layer of dirt each time it is used.
- 2) Large extra-strength trash bags (double-bagged) may be placed in water-tight plastic or metal containers, with tight fitting lids, or used as liners in toilets. Household disinfectant can be used for odor control. Final disposal can be by burying or sanitary sewer when notified by public officials.
- 3) Portable camp toilets, R-V toilets, porta-potties, etc. may also be used.

*Document available in an alternate format upon request