

Non-Structural Disaster Planning (Due: Tuesday, May 18) – 40 pts

Assignment: Using the checklist provided evaluate your home and determine if there are any non-structural things that you can do to prepare for a natural disaster. Choose a site – ideally your home or apartment, but you could also use a work place or other alternate site. Then systematically walk around the site and make a list of some of the potential hazards, and what you could do to make them safer. Use the checklist provided by “Project Impact” (below) as a guideline. Once you are done, write up a one-to-two page (typed, 12pt text, single space, 500-800 word) summary of the potential hazards and their solutions. (Due: *Tues., May 18*). Print 2-sided if possible. I’d also recommend that you try and do some of the things to make your home safer, too.

Project Impact Non-Structural Checklist: Whether through fire or flood, earthquake or tornado or hurricane, natural disasters occur every- where. And everywhere they occur, they do unnecessary damage as a result of hazards that could have been eliminated. This checklist identifies the common nonstructural hazards for Homes & Businesses. Use the list to prepare a work order for your property.

EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS

Are appliances, cabinets and shelves attached to the wall or braced by being anchored together?	Yes	No
Are heavy or sharp items stored on shelves with ledge barriers?	Yes	No
Are blocks and heavy objects stored on the lowest shelves?	Yes	No
Are television sets, fish bowls and similar items restrained so they won't slide off?	Yes	No
Are pictures and other wall hangings attached to the wall with wire and closed screw-eyes?	Yes	No
Are chemicals such as bleach, paint thinner and cleaners securely stored so they won't spill?	Yes	No
Are cribs located away from the tops of stairs and other places where rolling could endanger them or where heavy objects could fall on them?	Yes	No
Are tall cribs anchored against tipping over?	Yes	No
Are heavy furnishings or pieces of equipment latched or tethered to the wall when not in use?	Yes	No
Are fire extinguishers secured so they won't fall from wall brackets?	Yes	No
Are tall refrigerators attached to the wall or otherwise secured from tipping?	Yes	No

OVERHEAD ELEMENTS

Are suspended ceilings secured to structural framing?	Yes	No
Are suspended light fixtures attached to structural framing with safety cables?	Yes	No
Do fluorescent lights have transparent sleeves to keep broken glass pieces from scattering?	Yes	No
Are battery-powered emergency lights secured to walls with shelves or brackets?	Yes	No
Are blackboards or projection screens securely mounted to the wall or hung safely from the ceiling?	Yes	No

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

Is the water heater secured to wall studs (not just gypsum board) at the top and bottom? Does the water heater have flexible connectors, rather than rigid connectors?	Yes	No
Do large sheet-metal heating-ventilating-air conditioning ducts have diagonal bracing above or enough vertical support straps to keep any section from falling if the ductwork separates into sections?	Yes	No

PARTITIONS

Are lightweight panels, rather than shelving units or other tall furnishings, used to divide rooms? **Yes No**

Are heavy or tall room dividers braced by interconnecting them in L-shapes or zigzags? **Yes No**

Are partitions, which extend only to the suspended ceiling, supported by the structure above, especially if they are used to anchor heavy objects in the room? **Yes No**

WINDOWS

Are large windowpanes safety-glazed? **Yes No**

Are transoms safety-glazed? **Yes No**

Do partitions have plastic or safety glass panels, rather than ordinary glass? **Yes No**

In hurricane-prone areas, have impact-resistant windows and doors been installed; or are storm shutters, made out of plywood or metal, on hand to cover large windows and doors? **Yes No**

EXTERIORS

Are any trees leaning or in poor health? **Yes No**

In regions that are at risk from wildfires, is the landscape suitably protected? **Yes No**

Is the street number of the property clearly and legibly visible from the roadway so that emergency vehicles will be able to locate you easily? **Yes No**

Are there fuel breaks like driveways, lawns and gravel walkways? **Yes No**

Is there a "defensible space" of at least 100 feet around the building? **Yes No**

Are the trees pruned six to ten feet from the ground to eliminate fuel ladders? **Yes No**

Is there vegetation which might serve as a link between grass and treetops? **Yes No**

Are trees spaced at least ten feet apart? **Yes No**

Are native, fire-resistant vegetation and trees planted around the facility? **Yes No**

Do you have a well-maintained irrigation system? **Yes No**

Is leaf clutter removed and the lawn mowed regularly? **Yes No**

Is firewood stored away from the structure? **Yes No**

Are pine needles and leaves cleaned regularly from the roof and gutters? **Yes No**

Are the undersides of aboveground decks enclosed with noncombustible material to prevent the buildup of leaves and debris? **Yes No**

IN ADDITION

Do you have a disaster kit including a first aid kit? **Yes No**

Do you have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors? **Yes No**

Do you know how to shut off your main power switch, water and natural gas lines? **Yes No**

Do you and your family and/or roommates have a disaster plan? **Yes No**