

WILL IT SHAKE? Episode 2

Subject: **Will my pet fish in their 50 gallon aquarium be safe in an earthquake?** Host: Susan Jekarl

Plot: Oakland resident Alyssa Shannon submitted a question to Totally Unprepared's earthquake shake simulation technicians about the earthquake safety of her aquarium. She thinks her 56 gallon tank will be fine in an earthquake because it "weighs a ton." Sue and the team set up a demonstration on the UCSD shake-table, where seismic engineer Andy Gunthardt shows Susan and viewers just what happens to fish and the aquarium during an earthquake.



Susan Jekarl is the ultimate disaster geek, who has trained with CERT, Red Cross, LAFD, LA Sheriffs and is a member of California's elite Volunteer Disaster Corps. She was originally motivated to become disaster-ready after her two very active boys were born. The first generation American credits her parents' stories of surviving the bombing of Hiroshima and the Korean War with inspiring her to develop her survival skills.

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Reporting angles:

- 1) Do heavy, water filled aquarium tanks sitting on side tables stay put during an earthquake? Some people say yes, some people put it to the test.
- 2) Pet lovers know now, [thanks to Totally Unprepared and the Gingery family](#), to make an earthquake kit for their cats and dogs. But how do you protect your beloved tropical fish?
- 3) The April 4, 2010 6.9 magnitude earthquake in San Diego was felt by the UCSD seismic lab, Sea World, and Vencie Glenn who chose to save his fish tank over his big screen TV. Broadcast quality footage of Vencie describing what happened to his fish tank during a real 6.9 magnitude earthquake makes a great counterpoint to this demonstration, available from Jordan.
- 4) This first of its kind disaster-preparedness campaign, a joint project of three organizations, incorporates social media in a way that no campaign has ever done before. Its full scope will encompass blogging, YouTube videos, a mobile app, and social sharing.

Statistics:

The Sendai earthquake in Japan affected aquarium keepers the world over as many aquarium supplies are manufactured in Japan.

Earthquakes can be devastating to coral reefs, causing avalanches and structural collapses in the reef.

The earliest earthquake ever reported in California was felt in 1769 by Gaspar de Portola's expedition while they were camped just south of what is now Los Angeles.