Disposal of Sewage

Following a significant event, it is likely that toilets and piping will not be functioning due to a lack of water supply and/or broken pipes. It may take some time before local authorities can set up alternate arrangements, or for the sewerage system to be restored.

DO NOT USE YOUR TOILET UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT THE SYSTEM IS OPERATING.

Human waste can carry several diseases so it must be collected and disposed of carefully.

How to make a temporary toilet
If the sewerage system is disrupted, you will need to set up temporary toilet facilities. Use your existing toilet or a suitable container like a bucket.

Using an existing toilet or a suitable container such as a bucket:
• Use liners, such as large garbage bags (e.g. 23 liter drawstring bag) and place it in the toilet bowl. Double bag the toilet bowl.
• If possible, put shredded bits of paper in the bag to absorb urine.
• Keep the toilet, buckets or containers securely covered when not in use.
• Where possible, collect urine separately from feces.
• Put ½ a cup of liquid bleach into the collection bag every morning.

Using a dug trench:
• Dig a trench or latrine 2’-3’ deep. Spread a thin layer of powdered lime and a layer of earth each time it is used.