

Earthquake Safety Tips

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

Check for Hazards in the Home...

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves. Keep emergency supplies on hand...

Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors...

- Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Against an inside wall.
- Away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways.

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

If indoors...

- DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.

- DO NOT use the elevators.

If outdoors...

- Stay there.
- Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits, and alongside exterior walls.

AFTER THE QUAKE

Expect aftershocks...

- These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures.
- Stay informed about the latest watches, warnings, and advisories.
- Follow all emergency instructions.
- Be prepared to evacuate.

Use Caution...

- Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
- Stay away from damaged areas.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately.
- Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage. Unnoticed damage could lead to a fire.
- Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building.
- Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.