

# Earthquake Awareness and Preparedness Guide

## What is an earthquake?

An earthquake can be caused by a crack or rupture in Earth's tectonic plates, or when tectonic plates push against each other. Earthquakes in the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone are caused by cracks or ruptures.

There is nothing we can do to predict or prevent an earthquake from occurring; however, there are many things we can do to prepare for an earthquake that can keep us safe if one occurs.

## What should I do during an earthquake?

Stay calm and expect an earthquake to last for a few seconds up to a few minutes.

### Drop

Drop down onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down). This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.

### Cover

Cover your head and neck (and your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk. If there is no shelter nearby, only then should you get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

### Hold On

Hold on to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

When driving, stop safely as soon as possible. Stay in the vehicle until shaking stops. Do not stop vehicles under overpasses or on bridges.



# What should I do after an earthquake?

- #Check for injuries and render first aid.
  - #Avoid other hazards (fire, chemical spills, etc.).
  - #Check utilities (gas, water, electricity). If safe, shut utilities off at the source.
  - #Turn on a battery-powered radio and listen for public information broadcasts
  - #from emergency officials. STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES.
  - #Check food and water supplies.
  - #Do not use matches, candles or lighters inside.
  - #Do not use vehicles unless there is a life-threatening emergency.
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## How do I prepare?

There are several simple and inexpensive steps you can take to prepare for an earthquake, including:

Plan to hold earthquake drills for your family and business

Develop a family reunification plan

Make your home and business earthquake safe with such actions as:

- #Strapping water heaters and large appliances to wall studs
- #Anchoring overhead light fixtures
- #Fastening shelves to wall studs and securing cabinet doors with latches
- #Learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity in case the lines are damaged
- #Assemble emergency supplies that will last at least 72 hours
- #Have a battery-operated radio (and extra batteries) available for public information broadcasts

## Emergency Supply Checklist (Can be printed for future use)

Stocking up now with emergency supplies can add to your safety and comfort during and after an earthquake. Be sure to store enough supplies for at least 72 hours.

- ☐ Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- ☐ Non-perishable food (canned or packaged food that will not spoil, including items for special diets and high-energy foods such as candy, nuts or raisins)
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ Essential medications and eye glasses
- ☐ Type A-B-C fire extinguisher
- ☐ Food and water for pets
- ☐ Money (small bills)
- ☐ Knife
- ☐ Axe and shovel
- ☐ Crescent wrench for turning off gas
- ☐ Rope, ½" thickness
- ☐ Garden hose for siphoning and fire fighting

