**Earthquake**

* Description:

any sudden shaking of the ground caused by the passage of [seismic waves](https://www.britannica.com/science/seismic-wave) through [Earth](https://www.britannica.com/place/Earth)’s rocks. Seismic waves are produced when some form of energy stored in Earth’s crust is suddenly released, usually when masses of rock straining against one another suddenly fracture and “slip.” Earthquakes occur most often along geologic [faults](https://www.britannica.com/science/fault-geology), narrow zones where rock masses move in relation to one another. The major fault lines of the world are located at the fringes of the huge tectonic plates that make up Earth’s crust.

`Effects of Earthquakes

1. **Damage to buildings**

High magnitude earthquakes can lead to complete collapse of buildings. Debris from collapsing buildings is the main danger in the course of an earthquake because the falling effects of huge, heavy objects can be deadly to humans. High magnitude earthquakes result in shattering of mirrors and windows, which also present danger to humans.

1. **Damage to infrastructure**

Earthquakes can cause electricity lines to fall. This is dangerous because the exposed live wires can electrocute humans or start fires. Major earthquakes can cause rupturing of roads, gas lines, and water pipelines. Broken gas lines can cause gas to escape. Escaping gas can result in explosion and fires, which may be difficult to contain.

1. **Landslides and rockslides**

When an earthquake occurs, large rocks and sections of earth located uphill can be dislodged, consequently, rolling rapidly down into the valleys. Landslides and rockslides can cause destruction and death to the people living downstream.

1. **Can result in floods**

High magnitude earthquakes can instigate cracking of dam walls, collapsing in the long run. This would send raging waters into nearby areas leading to massive flooding..

1. **Leads to liquefaction**

Liquefaction is a phenomenon where the soil becomes saturated and loses it strength. When sediments consisting of highwater content are subjected to constant trembling, water pressure held in the sediment pores slowly increase. Ultimately, the sediments lose almost all cohesive strength and start acting like liquids. Buildings and other structures built on top of this liquefied soil overturn or sink into the ground. Earthquakes are responsible for most of the liquefaction occurring across the world. A typical example of liquefaction phenomenon is the earthquake of 1692 in Jamaica that resulted in the devastation of the town of Port Royal.

How to survive an earthquake:

**1- Get away from glass, large furniture, and other hazards, if possible.** In the first few seconds after the shaking starts, try to quickly move away from anything that could fall and injure you. Get low and walk or crawl away from hazards such as windows, cabinets, televisions, and bookcases.

**2- Drop to your hands and knees under a sturdy table or desk.** Look for a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a solid table, that can offer cover from falling objects. Get down on your hands and knees, and crouch under the desk or table until the shaking stops.

**3-Protect your head and neck from falling debris.** If possible, grab a pillow, sofa cushion, or another object to shield your face and head. If there’s nothing nearby to use as a shield, cover your face, head, and neck with your hands and arms.

**4- Remain in your safe spot until the shaking stops.** Stay put until the shaking has stopped for 1 or 2 minutes. Remain on guard when you get up, as aftershocks can occur at any time after an earthquake

**5- Use caution around debris after leaving your shelter.** Watch out for broken glass and rubble. If you’re not wearing shoes, tread lightly, and be extremely careful not to injure yourself. Grab a pair of heavy-soled shoes and, if you’re wearing light clothing, put on a pair of pants and a long-sleeved shirt

**6- Check for injuries and**[**render aid**](https://www.wikihow.com/Do-Basic-First-Aid)**, if needed.** Call emergency services if you or someone nearby are injured and need medical attention. If you know first aid or CPR, administer emergency care as needed

**7- Inspect the building for structural damage and hazards.** Check for cracks in the building’s structure, fires, the smell of gas, and damaged wires or electrical appliances. If you believe the building is unsound, evacuate immediately. If possible, and if there’s no immediate threat that the building will collapse, respond to any utility hazards.