

At-A-Glance

Earthquakes

Earthquakes can strike violently, and without warning at any time of the year and at any time of the day/night. Smaller earthquakes often follow the main shock. Most earthquake-related injuries result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.



Be prepared before an earthquake strikes...

- 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.
- Fasten heavy items such as pictures and mirrors securely to walls and away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures and top heavy objects.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks. Get appropriate professional help.
- Install flexible pipe fittings to avoid gas or water leaks. Flexible fittings are more resistant to breakage.

Did you know?

Aftershocks can still occur two days after the primary earthquake.

For additional information on earthquakes, go to www.ready.gov.

During an earthquake...

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!)
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table.
- **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.
- **DO NOT get in a doorway** unless you know it is a strongly constructed, load-bearing doorway and it is close to you. Many inside doorways are lightly constructed and do not offer protection.
- **DO NOT run outside** Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Do not exit a building during the shaking.
- Most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.



After the earthquake: Be cautious!

- Check for gas and water leaks, broken electrical and sewer lines, and major cracks and damage in your home. If you suspect a gas leak, contact your local Fire Department immediately.
- Keep streets clear for emergency vehicles. Do not drive your vehicle.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. If you are away from home, return only when authorities say it is safe. Damaged buildings may be destroyed by aftershocks following the main quake.

Source: ready.gov



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