

Earthquake Safety

Planning and proper responses are crucial to protecting yourself before and after an earthquake. While you may think the earthquake has stopped, there is always the potential for aftershocks. Aftershocks can be severe and happen within the first hour after the main shock. The rate of aftershocks decreases quickly but can be felt up to weeks or even months after a large earthquake occurrence. The following are tips covering situations in which you may find yourself when an earthquake strikes.

If You Are Inside

- Watch for falling objects.
- Crawl under a table, counter, etc.
- Get into a protective position by tucking your head to your knees and cover your head with your arms.
- Stay away from windows, glass partitions and mirrors.
- Stay away from overhead fixtures.
- Stay away from filing cabinets.
- Stay away from bookcases.
- Stay away from electrical appliances.
- Stay away from hanging objects.
- Evacuate the building only after debris has stopped falling.

If You Are Outside

- Move to an open area away from, building structures.
- Watch for fallen power lines.
- Watch for fallen streetlights.
- Watch for fallen trees.
- Watch for flying glass.

If You Are In A Vehicle

- Stop your vehicle in the nearest open area.
- Stay in your vehicle until the tremors have subsided.

After The Incident

- Remain Calm
- Be prepared for after-shocks.
- If evacuation is ordered, use the nearest and safest exit.
- DO NOT USE ELEVATORS!
- Proceed to your designated evacuation assembly area.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in danger.
- Open doors carefully.
- Watch for falling objects.
- Do not use matches/lighters or other sources of ignition.
- Avoid using telephones, as emergency response personnel will need these.