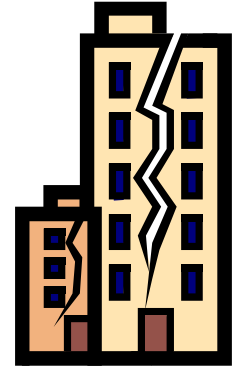


# Earthquakes

There are several procedures you can take to protect you and your family from a devastating earthquake. Some of the following suggestions will help protect you.

## Before an Earthquake

- Secure water heater, storage shelves, heavy mirrors, shelves, etc. to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves.
- Have earthquake drills – identify safe spots in each room.
- Have an out-of-state contact person available to phone.
- Develop a plan for reuniting your family after an earthquake.
- Review your insurance policies.
- Keep a good pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed.
- Prepare to survive on your own for at least three days. See "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit for more information.



## During an Earthquake

- Stay calm.
- If inside, find protection in a doorway or crouch under a desk or table away from windows, glass brick walls and chimneys.
- If outside, stand away from buildings, trees, telephone and electric lines.
- If driving on the road, drive away from under-passes/over-passes; stop in a safe area, stay in your vehicle.
- If in an office building, stay next to a pillar or column, or under a heavy table or desk.
- Stay where you are until the shaking has stopped and you are sure it is safe to move.

## After an Earthquake

- Check for injuries. Provide for first aid.
- Check for fires; gas, water, sewage breaks; downed electric lines; building damage and potential problems after shocks, such as cracks around fireplace and foundation. Turn off interrupted utilities as necessary.
- Clean up dangerous spills.
- Wear shoes and leather gloves.
- Tune radio to an emergency station and listen for instructions from public safety agencies.
- Use the telephone, only for emergencies.
- As soon as possible, notify family that you are safe.
- Do not use matches or open flames until you are sure there are no gas leaks.
- Don't turn light switch off and on. Sparks created by the switch can ignite gas fumes.
- In public buildings, follow evacuation procedures immediately and return only after the building has been declared safe by the appropriate authorities.