

Earthquake Safety Tips



Before the Next Earthquake

- Update your phone number and e-mail address with your electric company so you can be served faster in the event of an outage.
- Assess your home's structure and contents. Secure overhead light fixtures, top heavy objects, and shelving.
- Get trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) through your local chapter of the American Red Cross.
- Locate a designated shelter place in your home. Determine safe spaces away from windows in each room of your home. Choose spots away from heavy objects that could fall on you. Find out where you could shelter your pet should it become necessary to evacuate your home.
- Ensure that family members know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Ensure that family members know how to use your home fire extinguisher, and how, where, and when to shut off your home's utilities: Water, natural gas, and electricity.

- Make an emergency preparedness kit that includes enough food and water for several days, a flashlight, a fire extinguisher and a whistle. Include non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case services are cut off in your area.
- Hold periodic family drills to practice what you have learned.

During An Earthquake

- Take cover: Drop, cover, and hold on in your designated safe space.
- In the event of an earthquake, you may be instructed to shut off the electricity services at your home. Consult your local electric company if you need more information.
- If you are inside, do not use elevators and stay away from windows and other glass objects.
- If you are outside, move away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and electrical wires.
- If you are in a car, pull the car to the side of the road. Avoid stopping near buildings, overpasses, and electrical wires.

After An Earthquake

- Stay away from damaged areas and downed power lines.
- Keep a battery powered radio with you so you can listen for emergency updates.
- Be aware of small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- Use a mobile phone or text messages to report an emergency.
- Check gas, electrical, and water lines for damage.
- If you are in a damaged building, go outside and move away from the building.

If Your Power Is Out

- Report your outage immediately to your local electric company. Don't rely on your neighbors to report your outage.
- Remain patient. Every company has a detailed plan for restoring electrical service after a power outage. Typically, one of the first steps a company takes—to prevent injuries and fires—is to make sure that power is no longer flowing through downed lines. Restoration then proceeds based on established priorities, which you can learn about on EEI's Web site, www.eei.org.

Source: www.Ready.gov, a website operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)