

Earthquake Fact Sheet

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

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Before an Earthquake

Storage and Security

- Put larger objects on lower shelves and lighter ones on the top.
- Learn how to turn off water, gas, and electricity to your home.
- If possible, have walls, chimney's, shelves, and hanging items more securely reinforced.
- Secure water heater and other appliances that could rupture utility lines.
- Bolt heavy, tall furniture such as bookcases, china cabinets or wall units to studs in your walls.

Identify Safe Indoor Places

- In a doorway
- Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Against in inside wall
- Away from where glass could shatter. Stay away from windows, mirrors, pictures or where bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.

Identify Safe Outdoor Places

Stay in the open and away from:

- Buildings
- Trees
- Telephone and electrical lines
- Overpasses
- Elevated expressways.

General Household Checklist

- Learn how to turn off electricity, water and gas.
- Teach children:
 - How and when to call 9-1-1 for the police or fire departments
 - Which radio station to tune to for emergency information.

Emergency Plan

- Determine where family members will meet at home after the event, inside and outside.
- If family members are not together (such as a workday when kids are at school and parents are at work), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the family contact. After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone knows the name, address and phone number of the contact person.

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During an Earthquake

Inside During an Earthquake

- Stay inside. Trying to leave a building during an earthquake is one of the most dangerous actions. Objects can fall on you.
- Get under a large, sturdy piece of furniture and hang onto it because you both can move during an earthquake.
- Cover your head with your arms.
- If you're in a multi-floored building, stay away from windows and outside walls. Get under a table. Do not use elevators.
- If you're in a crowded public place, do not rush for the doors. Move away from items that may fall.
- Be ready for aftershocks.

Outside During an Earthquake

- Get in the open, away from power lines, tall buildings, or anything that could possibly fall on you.
- Stay in the open until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a car,
 - Drive slowly to a clear location.
 - Make sure nothing is around that could possibly fall on you.
 - Remain in the car.
- Once the shaking has stopped, proceed with caution.
 - Avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged

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After an Earthquake

What To Do

- Be prepared for aftershocks. These generally occur in the first hours, days, weeks or even months after the initial earthquake.
- Check for injuries and care for seriously injured.
- Do not immediately move someone who is seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger.
- Check on neighbors, especially those who may require special assistance.
- Listen to radio or TV for further instructions.
- Use telephone for emergency calls only.

Check Your Home

- If you hear a hissing or a gas leak noise, turn off main gas. Leave house immediately.
- Do not attempt to relight a gas pilot. Call the gas company.
- Put out small fires if there are any.
- Check home for damage, including chimneys, roof and foundation.
- Do **NOT** re-enter a house if it has structural damage.
- Immediately clean up spilled medicine, bleaches, gasoline or other harmful liquids.
- Open closet and cupboard doors cautiously.
- Patch any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations.