

What To Do After An Earthquake

1. Check for injuries and make sure everyone is all right. Do not move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Administer first aid if appropriate.
2. Do not use the telephone unless there is a severe injury. NOTE: Ensure all telephones are in their cradles.
3. Do not turn light switches on or off as they may spark and create a fire hazard.
4. Do not use matches, candles, or other open flames until you are sure there is no leaking gas.
5. Check gas, water, and electrical lines for damage.
6. Turn off the gas only if you suspect a leak or if the building is severely damaged.
7. Immediately report fires, spilled volatile agents, and gas leaks to police.
8. Only use your car if a critical situation exists.
9. Keep any children safe and relaxed.
10. Wear sturdy shoes in areas near fallen obstacles and broken glass.
11. Do not touch downed power lines or broken appliances.
12. Check water supply systems. If water is leaking, shut off water at the main valve (inside the building or at the street). If you do not know how to shut off natural gas or other utilities, do not attempt to do it! Get help.
13. Leave buildings that have been damaged until a safety assessment can be made.
14. Use caution when cleaning up hazardous materials (i.e., glass, spilled medicine, cleaning products, bleach, gasoline, etc.) and beware chemical spills.
15. Listen to your portable or car radio for official information concerning what to do, locations of emergency shelters, and the extent of damage in your area. Do not use the telephone to request information.
16. Be prepared for additional earthquakes and aftershocks. Although most of these are smaller than the main shock, some may be large enough to cause additional damage or topple weak structures.

IF AT WORK OR AWAY FROM HOME:

1. If you are not at home, getting back together with your family is a high priority, but take the care and time to do it safely. NOTE: This is where having an out-of-area contact plays an important part.
2. If you are at work, stay there (assist, if needed) until you know it is safe to leave. Evaluate your situation. Can you get home? Is that the best place to go? Listen to the radio, but make sure reports are confirmed before reacting to the news.

IF AT HOME:

1. Do not use the fireplace unless the chimney is undamaged and without cracks.
2. Check your home from cracks and damage, particularly the chimney and brick walls.
3. After you have your own situation under control, check on your neighbors.
4. Evacuate your home if it is off the foundation or otherwise unsafe (i.e., in danger of collapse, on fire, etc.) and seek assistance at an established emergency shelter. NOTE: If you must evacuate, ensure water, electricity, and gas are turned off, even if you do not detect any damage.

