

Do You Know What To Do During An Earthquake?



An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock as it releases strain that has accumulated over a long time. Initial mild shaking may strengthen and become extremely violent within seconds. Aftershocks may follow the initial earthquake.

Seismologists have stated that major earthquakes in Ohio are a low-probability, high-consequence event, but they do occur.

Know what to do before, during and after an earthquake. Register to participate in the ShakeOut Earthquake Drill. Go to www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/ for easy registration and earthquake preparedness information and resources.

Before an Earthquake

- Find out if your community is at risk of earthquakes. Contact your local emergency management agency, local Red Cross chapter, or the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Geological Survey.
- Secure items that could fall or move and cause injuries or damage (such as bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures, televisions, hot water tanks).
- Plan and practice how to **Drop** to the ground, **Cover** your head and neck with your arms, and if a safer sheltering object is nearby (desk, table) that you can get to, crawl to it and **Hold On** to maintain cover. To react quickly, you must practice emergency plans often.
- Make a disaster supplies kit. Store critical supplies (water, medication, first aid kit) and documents.
- Plan how you will communicate with family members by making a family emergency communication plan.

During an Earthquake

If inside when the shaking starts

- Drop, Cover and Hold On. Move as little as possible.
- If you're in bed, stay there. Curl up and hold on. Protect your head with a pillow.
- Stay away from windows to avoid being injured by shattered glass
- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it's safe to exit. If you must leave the building after the shaking stops, use stairs rather than an elevator, in case of aftershocks, power outages or other damage.

If outside when the shaking starts

- Find a clear spot and drop to the ground. Stay there until the shaking stops (away from buildings, power lines, trees, street lights).
- If you're in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses and power lines, if possible. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.
- If a power line falls on your vehicle, do not get out. Call and wait for assistance.

After an Earthquake

- When the shaking stops, look around. If there is a clear path to safety, leave the building.
- If you have a cell phone with you, use it to call or text for help.
- Once safe, monitor local news reports via radio, TV, social media and/or cell phone text alerts for emergency information and instructions.
- Check for injuries and provide assistance, if you've had training. Assist with rescues, if you can do so safely.