

City of Fairfax

Earthquake Safety Checklist



Earthquake Preparedness

- Determine safe places in your home, workplace, and/or school to seek shelter from falling debris. A safe place could be a doorway, small closet, under a piece of heavy furniture or against an interior wall.
- Learn how to shut off the gas valves in your home and keep a wrench handy for that purpose. Do not shut off gas unless an emergency exists. When the gas is turned off, a professional must restore it.
- Keep and maintain an emergency supply kit in an easy-to-access location.
- Keep a portable, battery-operated or hand-crank radio available for emergency information updates with a fresh supply of batteries if needed.

During an Earthquake

- If you are inside** during an earthquake, take cover and hold on.
- If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid windows, hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces, and tall, unsecured pieces of furniture that could topple over.
- Stay indoors during an earthquake until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit.
- When leaving a building, use stairs instead of elevators.
- Do not evacuate into a street or roadway. Drivers sometimes do not know an earthquake is happening and will not expect you entering the road.

During an Earthquake (continued)

- If you are outside** during an earthquake, find a clear spot and drop to the ground. Avoid buildings, power lines, trees, streetlights, etc. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a vehicle** during an earthquake, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses, and power lines if possible. Keep your seatbelt on.

After an Earthquake

- Expect and prepare for potential aftershocks which may occur within minutes, days, weeks, and even months following an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injuries.
- Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- Look for damage in and around your home and evacuate if your home is unsafe.
- Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.
- Listen to the radio for updated emergency information and instructions.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- Return to buildings only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be careful when driving and anticipate traffic light outages.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit Fairfaxva.gov/EM/EM.asp

