

Earthquake Preparedness

In the event of an earthquake, remain calm and follow the DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON rule.

Drop – Take cover under a desk, study table, or other large stable piece of furniture. If taking cover under furniture is not possible, get yourself into a corner against an interior wall facing outwards. In a crouched position with your knees pulled up against your chest.

Cover – Protect your head and neck by clasp your hands on the back of your neck and having your elbows at the side of your head. (As pictured below.) This will protect your neck and head from potential falling debris and flying glass.

Hold On – Hold onto whatever furniture you have taken cover underneath.



Stay where you are during an earthquake. Avoid being near windows, areas with hazardous chemicals, or somewhere that overhead items may fall on top of you.

Be prepared that there may be several aftershocks that may occur.

EARTHQUAKE – OUTDOORS

If you are outdoors when an earthquake occurs, ensure that you stay in an open area away from trees and powerline that could potentially come down.

DO NOT ENTER BUILDINGS

EARTHQUAKE – DRIVING

If you are driving when an earthquake occurs, pull over to the side of the road and stop your vehicle. **DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE.** Avoid stopping your vehicle on a bridge, overpasses, or near buildings, or power lines.

¹ “Drop! Cover! Hold On!” Great Shake Out: Earthquake Drills, Shakeout.org, Accessed June 27, 2024, https://www.earthquakecountry.org/library/Drop_Cover_Hold_On_ENG_Blue_Orange_RGB.png



AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

Wait until the shaking has stopped. Stay calm and take your time before moving. Be prepared for aftershocks that may force you to take cover again. Check your surroundings before leaving cover as items will likely have shifted or fallen during the earthquake creating obstacles to be aware of.

Assist those that are injured. Do not attempt to move them unless they are in immediate danger.

Do not use cell phones unless necessary to contact emergency personnel to make them aware of a fire or medical emergency.

Wait for response from NIC emergency response team to instruct as to next steps. If instructed to evacuate a building, do not use the elevator.

Do not risk becoming a casualty by being careless or acting independently.

TRADES SHOPS/LABORATORIES OPERATIONS AFTER A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE

After an earthquake, particularly in trade shops and laboratories, be cautious of objects that may have shifted during the shake that may present unexpected obstacles or hazards.

Students are to follow the direction of their instructors in both the trades workshops and science labs following a notably sizable earthquake.

In the event of a major earthquake resulting in chemical spills and structural damage, remain calm and check your surroundings before leaving cover. When safe to do so follow emergency procedures to evacuate the building. Leaving via the closest emergency exit and do not use elevators. Assist others as needed while evacuating the building.

Do not go back into the building for anything until directed it is safe to do so from NIC emergency response.