

## Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness

For Schools



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### What you can do before a disaster?



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### Prepare the school and its contents

- Much of the damage caused by earthquakes is to the contents.
- During the shaking, bookcases topple, objects fall out of cabinets, windows shatter, and hanging or large objects fall.
- Damage and injuries can be reduced by removing, moving and fastening, or latching items that are likely to break, fall over or hurt people.

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### Go through the school room-by-room

- Standing in the center of each room, look all around and imagine which objects or pieces of furniture might fall over or fly through the air.
  - Move heavy objects to lower shelves
  - Attach heavy objects that can't be moved to the desk or table they're sitting on with Velcro
  - Fasten bookcases and tall cabinets to the wall
  - Move desks away from windows
  - Secure suspended ceilings

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### Look for potential hazards outside the building

- Places where the main gas supply or electric current enters the building
- Overhead power lines
- Covered walkways
- Roofing or other material that may fall down
- Hazard material storage

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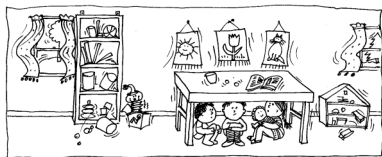
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### Get Ready

- Students and teachers should know how to duck and cover under sturdy pieces of furniture (tables or desks) for protection during earthquake shaking



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### Have Frequent Drills

- To avoid or reduce physical injury, students must learn to respond almost automatically to a teacher's commands.
- Have duck-cover-hold and/or evacuation drills at least once a month.

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### For a Successful Drill...

- Teachers must have the students' attention and must give clear and distinct commands
- Teachers must speak in a calm voice.
- At the command "drop" the students should:
  - Duck under a desk or table.
  - Stay under cover until the shaking stops (at least one minute).
  - If possible, hold on to the desk or table leg

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### Practice - Practice

- If there aren't enough sturdy pieces of furniture to get under, practice taking cover next to inside walls, away from:
  - Windows
  - Overhead light fixtures
  - Tall pieces of furniture which might topple over when the ground shakes.
- Practice duck-cover-hold drills outside.

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### Talk to Parents

- Share the emergency plans with your parents.
- They need to know what the plan is in case an earthquake or any other type of emergency.
- Ask them to make an earthquake plan for your home and to talk to the entire family about earthquake safety.

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### Prepare an emergency kit

- One for the entire school
- One for each room



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### Room Kit

- Food & water
- Bottle
- Diaper Wipes
- Diapers
- "Comfort letter"
- Spare clothes
- Zip Lock bags
- Small trash bags
- A treat...
- Anything special that students may need
  - Specialized medicine
  - Food
  - Etc.

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### For the School

- Supplies:
  - Maintain a 3-day supply in these basic areas:
    - Water
    - Food
    - First-aid supplies
    - Clothing/bedding
    - Hygiene & sanitation supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)
    - Tools & emergency supplies (batteries & flashlights)
  - Consider arranging for portable toilet, tarps/ canopies and some sort of temporary shelter

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### For the School (cont.)

- Water:
  - ½ gallon for children and one gallon for adults per day for 3 days
  - Water can be purified for storage by adding 8 drops of unscented chlorine bleach to every one gallon of water



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### For the School (cont.)

- Food:
  - Maintain a dated 3-day supply of food that does not require refrigeration and can be kept for a long period of time
  - Choose foods that are appropriate for the ages of the children and foods that they are likely to eat
  - Maintain a supply of disposable eating utensils, and don't forget a non-electric can opener

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**Examples:**

- ✓ Dry cereal
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Peanut butter
- ✓ Canned juice
- ✓ Canned fruit
- ✓ Canned vegetables
- ✓ Pork & beans, beef stew, chili, Spaghetti-O's
- ✓ Tuna
- ✓ Processed cheese spread
- ✓ Granola bars
- ✓ Canned or dry soup
- ✓ Cocoa
- ✓ Pudding
- ✓ Raisins or dried fruit
- ✓ Peanuts or other nuts
- ✓ Nonfat dried milk
- ✓ Bottled water

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**What to do during an earthquake**



- Duck-Cover-Hold
- If under furniture, hold onto the legs
- If the furniture moves...move with it
- Do not move until the shaking stops
- If you are outside stay away from power lines, trees etc.

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**What to do after an earthquake**

- Be prepared to take cover if there are aftershocks
- Account for the all students and staff
- Tend to any first-aid needs
- Extinguish small fires
- Check for damage to utility systems
- Shut off power, gas, and water
- Tune radio to emergency broadcast system



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### Shutting off the utilities

Switch off gas  
Gas Meter

Switch off gas  
Gas Valve

Special tool available at some hardware stores to shutting of gas meter (if circuit switch will work.)

Turn off Main toggle only  
Simplified Circuit Breaker Box

Main Fuse Box

Water Meter

Gate Valve

Righty-Tighty  
Lefty-Loosey

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### Evacuation

- Evacuation should never be “automatic”
  - There may be more danger outside your building
  - There may be no safe assembly area outside or clear route to get there
- Before any decision is made to evacuate all or part of the school someone must find out if there is:
  - A safe route out
  - A safe place to assemble

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### Evacuation (cont.)

- Designate an evacuation route that avoids hazards and decide on an alternate route
- Everyone (student, staff, parents) should know about the evacuation plan ahead of time
- The staff must know what to do and where to go if the students are already outside when the disaster happens

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### Evacuation (cont.)

- Consider students with disabilities or non-walkers
- Only take an injured student if moving them will not cause further injury

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### Summary

- Be safe
- Plan ahead
- Stay calm and focused
- Leadership is crucial but don't be a hero



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