

Earthquakes

The danger and risks of earthquakes can be reduced if people know what actions to take before, during and after an earthquake.

If Inside a Building

- **Drop, cover and hold.**
 - Under a desk, table, or chair.
 - In a corner or along the wall in a hallway away from windows.
 - Near structurally strong locations such as a hall by a pillar.
- **Do not use the elevators.**
- **Watch for falling objects** such as light fixtures, bookcases, cabinets, shelves, and other furniture that might slide or topple.
- **Stay away from windows.**
- **Do not run outside.** Exits may be damaged and the building's exterior brick, tile, and decorations may be falling off. Be cautious; maintain awareness of your surroundings.

If Outside a Building

- **Stay outside.** Stay clear of electrical wires, poles, trees, or anything that might fall.

After a Major Earthquake

- **Check for injuries to people in your area.** Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger. **Provide first aid** if qualified, and **call 911**. Emergency services **may not be able to respond for up to 72 hours**.
- **Avoid areas of hazardous material spills, gas leaks, fires, and fallen objects.**
- **Turn off ignition and heat sources** if it is safe to do so.
- **Exit the building** if structurally damaged, taking emergency/first-aid kit and personal belongings. Go to your evacuation assembly point. Report building damages and potentially hazardous conditions using the [post-earthquake assessment tool](#).
- **Do not re-enter a damaged building** until it has been declared safe by the University's Applied Technology Council ([ATC-20](#)) assessment teams or other trained professionals.
- **Expect aftershocks**

After a Minor Earthquake

- **Restore calm** to those around you, if possible.
- **Examine your area for damage.** Staff members may use the [post-earthquake assessment tool](#) to make an initial assessment as to whether the building should remain occupied.
- **If obvious structural damage is identified,** evacuate the building and report observations to University Police by calling 911.
- **Do not re-enter** buildings with structural damage until the building has been declared safe by the University's ATC-20 team or other trained professionals.

Laboratories

- **Review** your [Laboratory Safety Manual](#) for specific earthquake procedures.