

Earthquake Procedure

Purpose

This tells site teams how to prepare for an earthquake and conduct an earthquake drill.

Procedure

Preparing for an earthquake

- Create your disaster supply kit and store it so it's easily accessible.
- Be very familiar with your written All Hazard Preparedness Plan.
- Pick safe places in each room of your site - under a sturdy table or desk, against an interior wall away from windows and that could fall on you.
- Practice drop, cover, and hold-on in each safe place - drop under a sturdy desk or table, hold on, and protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arms.
- Discuss earthquakes with everyone at your site, including the children.
- Everyone must know what to do. Practice earthquake drills at least three times during the school year for each class (am and pm).
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves. Fasten shelves to walls. Brace high and top-heavy objects.

During an earthquake

- Drop, cover your head, and hold on.
- Take as few steps as possible to move to a safe place so you are not injured while moving.
- If you are outdoors, find a clear spot away from building, trees, streetlights, and power lines. Drop to the ground and stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location; stop there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops..
- Stay indoors until the shaking stops and you're sure it's safe to exit.
- Stay away from windows.
- If you are in a coastal area, move to higher ground.
- If you are in a mountainous area or near unstable slopes or cliffs, be alert for falling rocks and other debris that could be loosened by the earthquake.

After an earthquake

- Check yourself for injuries first, and then check others.
- Reassure children that you will take care of them until their families come for them.
- Continue listening to a local radio station for information; expect aftershocks.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them to the Power Company, police or fire department.
- Do not re-enter the building unless you are told it is safe to do so.
- Do your best to clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, or other flammable liquids immediately.
- Use the telephone for emergency calls only.

Related Documents

All Hazard Preparedness Incident Command System Procedure

All Hazard Preparedness Procedure

Disaster Supply Kit

Resources

For current information on how to plan for most types of disasters and emergencies, including how to work with children and families:

www.FEMA.gov

www.RedCross.org