

# Emergency Preparedness – Earthquake Awareness

February 2023



## What is an earthquake?

An earthquake is the sudden movement or trembling of the Earth's tectonic plates. This is what creates the shaking we feel during an earthquake. This shaking can devastate buildings and break the Earth's surface. This abrupt release of tension in the tectonic plates, send waves of energy that move through the Earth.

## How to Prepare for an Earthquake (click on links provided)

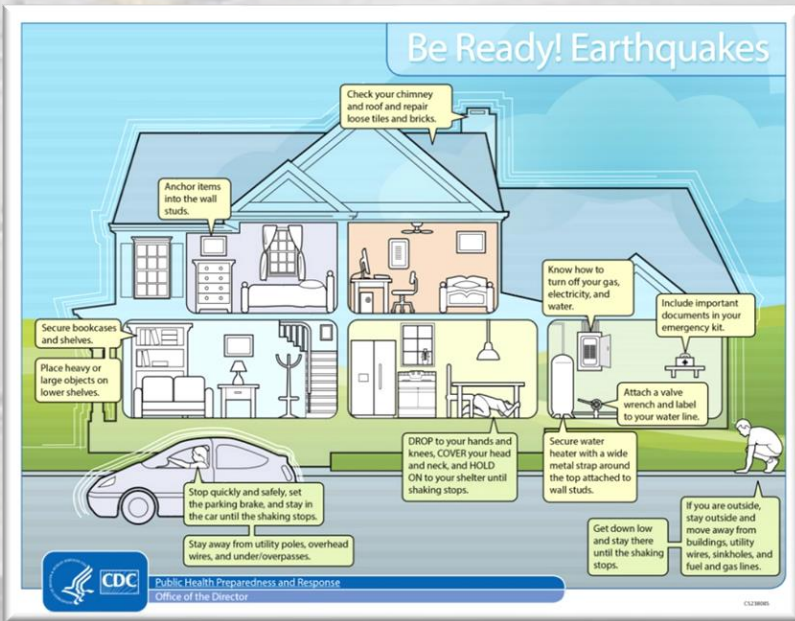
Talk about earthquakes with your family. Everyone needs to know what to do in case of an earthquake.

Assemble an [emergency preparedness kit](#).

Check with your employer and your children's schools and day care centers to learn about their earthquake emergency plans. [Create a household evacuation plan](#).

Pick a safe place in each room of your home. A safe place could be under a piece of furniture or against an interior wall, away from windows, bookcases or tall furniture that could fall on you. Ensure each family member knows [how to get back in touch if you are all separated](#) during an emergency.

Put together a [pet emergency kit](#) for your companion animals.



## How to Protect your Home

1. Bolt and brace water heaters and gas appliances to wall studs. Have a professional install flexible fittings to avoid gas and/or water leaks.
2. Learn how to shut off the gas valves in your home and keep a wrench handy for that purpose.
3. Anchor overhead lighting fixtures to joists.
4. Anchor top-heavy, tall and freestanding furniture such as bookcases and cabinets to wall studs to keep these from toppling over.
5. Place large and heavy objects and breakable items (bottled foods and glass on lower shelves).

U.S. Department of Homeland Security has many resources on earthquake safety. Scan the QR Code for more information



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[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)