

What to do After an Earthquake

Immediately following the earthquake, your first action is to get everyone to safety and to follow the process outlined in your pre-earthquake training.

What to do next:

- Ensure everyone is accounted for.
- If you suspect anyone is trapped, notify emergency medical response.
- Administer first aid as needed.
- Listen to local news reports via a battery powered radio or cell phones and follow the instructions of local authorities.
- For anyone exiting a building and for those already outside, look for downed power lines or damaged poles, and keep your distance.
- If near coastal areas, move to higher ground, since tsunamis are a significant threat.
- After the immediate danger has passed, perform a detailed hazard assessment of the site and an inspection of all equipment.

If your workplace is indoors:

- If there is no damage to the workplace, perform an assessment of hazards inside.
- Check for leaks around chemical containers and clean up spills.
- Evaluate gas lines and gas-fueled appliances for potential leaks.
- If there are no suspected gas leaks, turn off power to the building by turning off the main circuit if you suspect damage to the system. Leave the electrical system alone if there is a suspected gas leak.
- Look for water leaks in the building.
- Check for unstable building components such as ceiling components, light fixtures, ductwork, or cabinets.
- Check for unstable items on walls, shelves, and storage racks.

If your workplace is outdoors:

- Look for unstable utility poles, construction equipment, or other objects that can fall or be a source of falling debris.
- Stay away from damaged fertilizer or fuel storage containers.
- Maintain your distance from elevated silos, tanks, and hay bales.
- If working at heights and unable to move to ground level during the earthquake, do so as soon as the shaking stops. Use stairs or ladders. Do not use scaffolding or personnel hoists that may be unstable due to damage.

For anyone who is driving:

- Pull off the road to a safe place away from buildings.
- Do not park underneath overpasses.
- Check for damage updates on your phone or the vehicle radio.
- Only return to the road when it is safe to do so.

After the immediate danger has passed:

- Fully assess the workplace for damage. Is it safe to for employees to return there for work?
- Check for damage if power was lost and came back on.
- If gas was turned off, contact the gas company to have it restored when it's safe to do so.
- When employees are back together, take time to evaluate your emergency action plan and make improvements so you can be better prepared for the next earthquake or other emergency.

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California
working.*