



"Eddy the Ready Dragon"

Emergency Management Mid-Monthly Message

Eddy says...

Date: October

Earthquake...Drop, Cover, and Hold On!

Do you or your family know what actions to take during an earthquake to keep them safe?

All 50 states and 5 U.S. territories are at some risk for earthquakes. Earthquakes can happen at any time of the year.

- **Before an Earthquake:** Look around places where you spend time. Identify safe places such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall so that when the shaking starts, you Drop to the ground, Cover your head and neck with your arms, and if a safer place is nearby, crawl to it and Hold On.
- Practice how to "[Drop, Cover, and Hold On!](#)" click here to watch a Public Service Announcement from actor Dwayne Johnson. Before an earthquake occurs, secure items that could fall and cause injuries (e.g., bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures). [Store critical supplies \(e.g., water, medication\) and documents.](#) Plan how you will communicate with family members, including multiple methods by making a [Family Emergency Communication Plan.](#)
- **During an Earthquake:** Stay where you are until the shaking stops. Do not run outside. Do not get in a doorway as this does not provide protection from falling or flying objects, and you may not be able to remain standing. Drop down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn't knock you down. Drop to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!). Cover your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris. If you are in danger from falling objects, and you can move safely, crawl for additional cover under a sturdy desk or table. If there is low furniture or an interior wall or corner nearby, and the path is clear, these may also provide some additional cover. Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as light fixtures or furniture.
- **If you are outside when you feel the shaking:** If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires. Once in the open, "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Stay there until the shaking stops. This might not be possible in a city, so you may need to duck inside a building to avoid falling debris.

After an Earthquake: When the shaking stops, look around. If there is a clear path to safety, leave the building and go to an open space away from damaged areas. If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust. If you have a cell phone with you, use it to call or text for help. Prepare for aftershocks.

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Disasters can strike anywhere and at any time. Our goal is to build on a culture of preparedness to confront and recover from any disaster.

Together we can truly become Partners in Preparedness!