

Kentucky Earthquake Program

Re-organization of the program is underway.

Earthquake Week is being moved to February to coincide with regional observances.

Mitigation Program is expanding to include earthquake activities.

ATC 20 Training is being conducted by volunteers in Owensboro, KY.

Educational outreach is being conducted by the Jefferson County Public Schools at the State Fair.

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

1. As a homeowner or tenant:

- Check your home for earthquake hazards.
- Bolt down or provide other strong support for water heaters and other gas appliances, since fire damage can result from broken gas lines and appliance connections. Use flexible connections wherever possible.
- Place large or heavy objects on the lower shelves. Securely fasten shelves to walls. Brace or anchor high or top-heavy objects.
- In new construction or alterations, follow building codes to minimize earthquake hazards.
- Sites for construction should be selected and engineered to reduce the hazards of damage from an earthquake.

2. As a parent or head of family:

- Hold occasional home earthquake drills to provide your family with the knowledge to avoid injury and panic during an earthquake.
- An earthquake could occur when your family is not together. Take a few minutes with your family to establish a plan for how and when to reunite after an earthquake.
- Teach responsible members of your family how to turn off electricity, gas, and water at the main switch and valves. If in doubt, check with your local utilities offices for instructions. **CAUTION: NEVER SHUT OFF THE GAS** unless you suspect a gas leak or can smell gas. If the gas is ever shut off, all pilot lights **MUST** be re-lit.
- Provide for responsible members of your family to receive basic first aid and C.P.R. (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) instruction because medical facilities may be overloaded immediately after an earthquake. Call Red Cross Safety Services for information about classes.
- Keep a flashlight and a battery-powered transistor radio in the home, ready for use at all times. Keep fresh batteries with these items.
- Keep immunizations up-to-date for all family members.
- Conduct calm family discussions about earthquakes and other possible disasters. Avoid frightening disaster stories, but talk frankly and rationally about the possible consequences of catastrophic events.
- Maintain a 2-3 day supply of food and water. However, to maintain freshness it is important to rotate this stock periodically.

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

1. The most important thing you can do during an earthquake is to remain calm. By doing this, you will be in a better position to assess your situation and instill confidence in those around you. Think through the consequences of any actions you take. Try to calm and reassure others.
2. If indoors, stay there. Get under a table, desk or bed; in a corner away from windows. Watch for falling plaster, bricks, light fixtures and other objects. Watch out for high bookcases, china cabinets, shelves, and other furniture or appliances which might fall or topple. Do not run outdoors - you may be hit by falling debris or electrical wires.
3. If in a high-rise office building, move away from windows and outside walls. Get under a desk or table. Do not dash for exits, wait for the shaking to stop and await safety instructions. Do not use the elevators until they are inspected by a qualified technician.
4. If in a crowded store, do not rush for a doorway. If possible duck under a fixture or other item that will help protect you from falling debris.
5. If outside, avoid buildings, walls, power poles, and other objects which could fall during the earthquake. If possible, move to an open area away from all hazards.
6. If in an automobile, pull your car to the side of the road and stop in the safest place available. Avoid bridges, overpasses, and power lines. Remain inside your car until the shaking is over. Turn on your radio for news and information. Proceed with extreme caution because of the danger of debris in the road or damage to the road itself.

What's Shaking in Kentucky

My Home in relationship to 20 selected Earthquakes

