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Earthquake Safety

How to be Alert and Prepared

Magnitude

- Magnitude can range from 1 (standard) to 9.5 (major)
- Magnitude is measured on the Richter scale and it shows the measure of shaking amplitude
- It can be determined by motion recorded by a seismograph

Drills and Priorities

- Practice drills and evacuation plans
- Establishing priorities
- Write down important information
- Gather emergency supplies
- Gather and store important documents in a fire-proof safe

Prepare Now

- **Secure items such as book shelves, TV's, and objects on walls**
- **Practice Drop, Cover, then Hold On**
- **Create family emergency communication plan**
- **Make a supply kit with nonperishable food and water**
 - **One gallon of water per person per day for at least 72 hours**
- **Consider obtaining an earthquake insurance policy**
- **Consider a retrofit of your building to correct structural issues**
- **Saving emergency funds**

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On Hand Supplies

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit, manual and earthquake supplies kit
- Emergency food and water
- Nonelectric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes

Survive During

- If in bed, stay there and cover your head and neck with a pillow
- If inside, stay there until shaking stops
- If outside, move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires
- If in a vehicle, stop in a clear area
- If you are in a high rise building do not use elevators; expect fire alarms and sprinklers to go off
- If near slopes, cliffs, or mountains be alert for falling rocks and landslides
- If you don't have a desk or table, hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands

Be Safe After

- **Expect aftershocks**
- **Check yourself for injury and assist others if you have training**
- **Go outside and move away if in a damaged building**
- **Save phone calls for emergencies**
- **Remain cautious during post-disaster clean up**



- Drop to your hands and knees
- It helps you from being knocked down
- It allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby
- Do not run outside



- Cover your head and neck with one arm and hand
- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl under for shelter
- If no shelter is nearby crawl to the nearest interior wall (away from windows)
- Stay on your knees, bend over to protect vital organs
- Do not get under a doorway



- Hold on until shaking stops
- Under shelter: hold on with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts
- No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands
- Do not believe the “triangle of life” it is an alternative to Drop, Cover, Hold On; usually sent by email along with other methods which could be life threatening

Survival Kits

- Can be used in your car, home, or workplace
- Contains tools, nonperishable food, water, sturdy shoes, essential medicine, blankets, etc.
 - Gauze, bandages, and cotton tipped swabs
 - Change of clothes, fire extinguisher, emergency signal device (reflector, light sticks)
 - Whistle, jacket/sweatshirt, extra pair of glasses or contact solution

Children

- Explain that an earthquake is a natural disaster and it is no one's fault
- Talk about your own experiences with natural disasters
- Encourage your child to express their feelings of fear
- Give them verbal and physical reassurance that everything will be fine
- Include your child in clean-up activities

People with Disabilities

- Write down specific needs
- Find someone to help you in case of an emergency
- If confined to a wheelchair, try to get under a doorway, lock your wheels, and cover your head with your arms
- Stay away from outer walls, windows, fireplaces, and hanging objects
- Try to attract attention to your location

Pets

- Make sure pets are properly identified
- Be familiar with hiding places
- Keep a medical record and current photo
- Build a kit
- Check animal shelters if pet gets lost

Are You Prepared?

- Be informed on what type of disaster you will face
- Make a plan about how you will contact one another and meet back up while remaining safe
- Build a kit full of basic household items that you can use to stay safe
- Re-evaluate plan to make important changes and add items or supplies

Links

- For more information visit
https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-should-i-do-during-earthquake?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products
- <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/index.html>
- <https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>
- <http://www.earthquakecountry.org/dropcoverholdon/>

Contacts

- Call 911 in any emergency
- Boulder City Fire Department (702) 293-9228
- Boulder City Parks and Rec Department (702) 293-9256
- Boulder City Hall (702) 293-9208
- Boulder City Office of Emergency Management 702-589-9643