

# Earthquakes

An earthquake is a sudden shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the earth's surface. Earthquakes can cause buildings and bridges to collapse, impact and affect telephone and power lines and can cause fires, explosions, and landslides.

**The Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have created a website to provide information and resource tips to help prepare the public for earthquakes.**

Visit [Earthquakecountry.org](http://Earthquakecountry.org).



## SCEC includes:

- **How to survive and respond to earthquakes**
- **Pinpointing hazardous areas**
- **Earthquake preparedness information**
- **California Governor's Office Of Emergency Services (CALOES)**
- **Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country**

## Earthquake Preparedness Checklist:

- ✓ Food – Store enough non-perishable items for 72 hours.
- ✓ Water – Store enough so each person has a gallon a day for 72 hours; preferably 10 days.
- ✓ First Aid Kit – Don't forget to add medication
- ✓ A weather radio with extra batteries
- ✓ Designate a meeting location
- ✓ Learn first aid and CPR
- ✓ Take a CERT training class
- ✓ Learn how to shut off utilities in case lines are damaged.

## **During an Earthquake:**

- ✓ If indoors, stay there – get under a desk or table or stand in the corner.
- ✓ Crouch and cover your head and neck with your hand and arms
- ✓ If outdoors, get to an open area away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines.
- ✓ Do not rush for the doors if in a crowded place.

## **After an Earthquake:**

- ✓ Check for gas and water leaks
- ✓ Do not relight the gas pilot
- ✓ Check your building for cracks and damage, including the roof, chimney, and foundation.
- ✓ Be prepared for aftershocks
- ✓ If you evacuate, leave a message at your home telling family and others where you can be found

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**The Time to Prepare is Now.**