

# EARTHQUAKES



**Plan. Prepare. Practice.**  
 Earthquakes can be *potentially devastating* events, but with some *careful planning* and *quick thinking*, you can stay safe before, during, and after an earthquake! Do your part to protect your family and property from disaster:  
**BE PREPARED FOR EARTHQUAKES!**

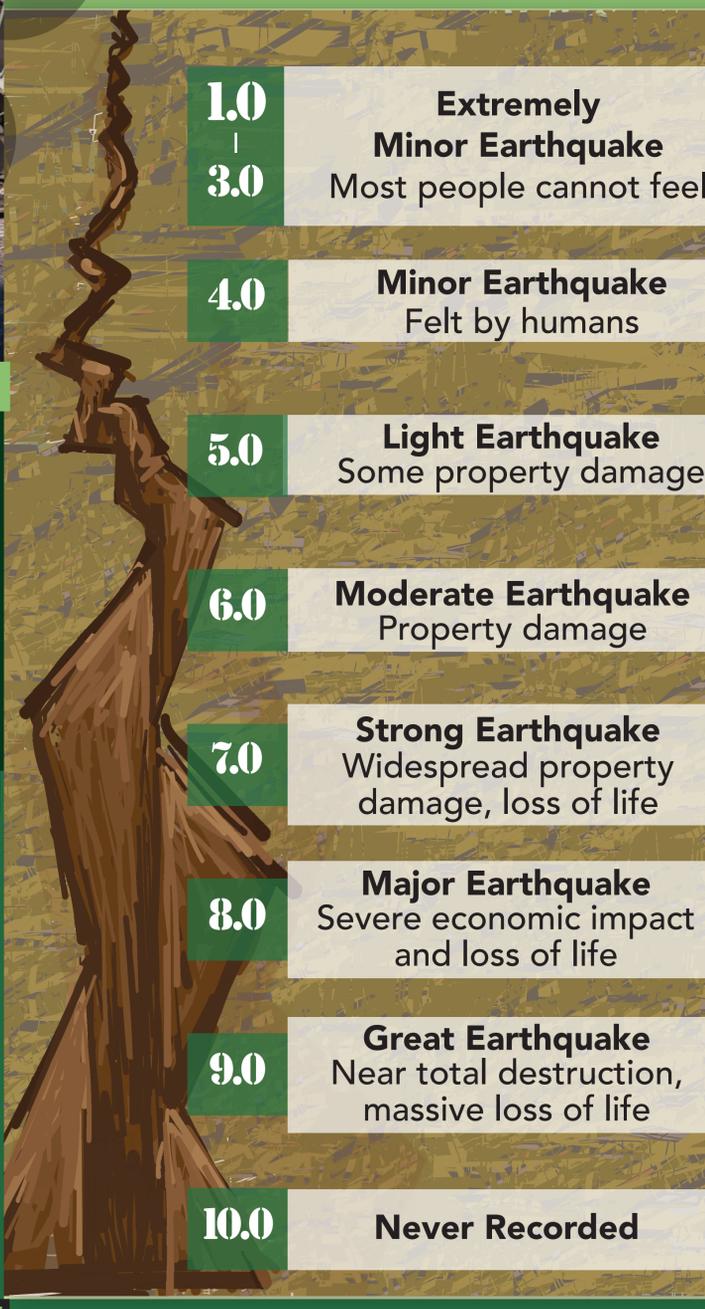
## EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM: \*\* WHAT IS AN EARTHQUAKE? \*\*

An **EARTHQUAKE** is a sudden and violent shaking of the ground caused by the movement of the earth's rocky outermost crust (tectonic plates), sometimes causing great destruction. Most earthquakes occur along fault lines when the plates slide past or collide against each other.



## THE MOMENT MAGNITUDE SCALE

The **moment magnitude scale (MMS)** has been used by seismologists since the 1970s to measure the size of earthquakes in terms of the energy released.



## PREPARE YOUR FAMILY

Plan and practice what you and your family will do if an earthquake strikes. Identify "Safe Spots" in every room of your home. Have your entire family practice getting to these "safe spots" with frequent Earthquake Drills.

- Develop an "Escape Plan" with your family.
- Draw a floor plan of your home with at least two exits from each room, and the location of emergency supplies and first-aid kits.
- Mark the location of utility cut offs.
- Select an outdoor Safe Meeting Place, where everyone will go.
- Have a plan to handle pets. Most public shelters won't allow pets.



## BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

- Check your home for potential earthquake hazards and do what you can to reduce those hazards.
- Inspect and secure windows and other glass objects that might shatter.
- Anchor large objects that may fall and cause injury.
- Move or secure heavy pictures or mirrors in areas where you sleep or sit.
- Place heavy, large items on lower shelves.
- Check the construction of your home and correct any deficiency.

## CREATE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

- Battery operated flashlights and radios
- Clothing and shoes for each family member
- A first-aid kit and prescription medications
- A list of important phone numbers, insurance, and medical documents.
- Special items for infants or the elderly

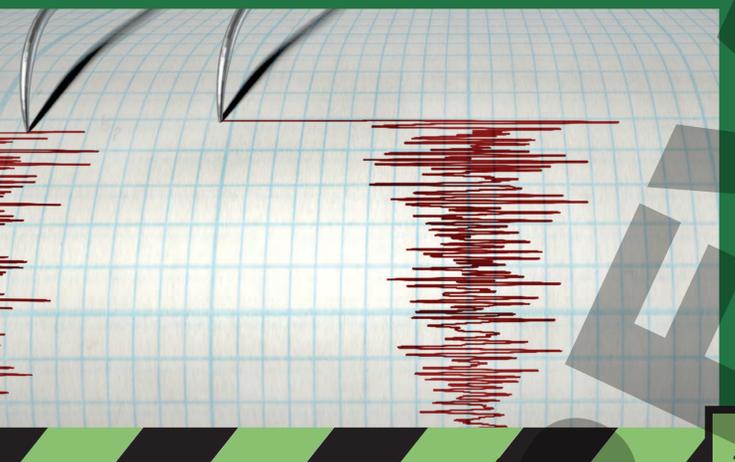
## DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

If you are inside of a building during an earthquake:

- Take cover under a heavy table or desk. Cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Or, brace yourself against an inside wall away from heavy objects.
- Never use an elevator in an emergency. Use the stairs.
- Stay inside! Many people are injured at building exits by falling debris.

If you are outside when an earthquake strikes:

- Stay outside! Avoid buildings.
- Avoid utility poles and power lines.
- Stay in the open until the shaking ceases.
- If you are driving during an earthquake, safely pull over, away from buildings and utility poles.



## AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- Aftershocks usually occur after an earthquake and may cause additional damage.
- Never move an injured person unless they are in immediate danger. Apply emergency first-aid or CPR if you are certified.
- If trapped, do your best to let others know where you are.

- Be aware of damage to utility lines and water pipes.
- Listen to local broadcasts with a battery operated radio.
- If forced to evacuate your home, post a message letting everyone know where you've gone.

- Be sure to take your Disaster Supply Kit and any important documents with you.
- Do not return to your home until emergency officials have given the all clear.
- Fires, chemical spills, dam breaks, and landslides have been known to occur after earthquakes.

## MINIMIZE THE RISK TO LIFE AND PROPERTY

# BE PREPARED FOR EARTHQUAKES