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FEDERAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOMES

Earthquake

Earthquakes strike with no warning, leaving most homeowners and families unprepared for injuries and property loss. Below are helpful tips to strengthen your home and safeguard your family.

Before

- Plan and hold earthquake drills for your family. Choose a location where family members will meet if separated during the quake.
- Strap water heaters, appliances, and TV's to wall studs. Secure pictures, mirrors, and ornaments to the wall with appropriate fasteners. Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas, and water services.
- Assemble disaster survival kits to last at least 72 hours for each person in the household. Check with local emergency managers for additional tips and safety training.

During

- Keep calm. Expect the earthquake to last from a few seconds to a few minutes.
- If indoors, stay there until the shaking stops.
- **Drop, Cover and Hold On.** Drop down to the floor and take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture or an interior wall. Hold onto the furniture and keep your position. Practice this during a Great ShakeOut earthquake drill (visit www.shakeout.org).
- If outdoors, move into an open area away from trees, buildings, utility wires, or signs. Stay in the open until the shaking stops.

After

- Check for injuries. Don't move injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Use TV or radio for emergency information and instructions.
- Check utilities for gas and water leaks, or broken electrical connections. Be prepared to turn off utilities in the event they are damaged.
- Clean up medications, cleaning products, or flammable liquids. Check food and water supplies. Open cabinets carefully, to avoid objects falling out.

More information on earthquake safety is available through the Great California ShakeOut, www.shakeout.org, or the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, www.flash.org.

Protect your home in a **FLASH** with
the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes!

www.flash.org ■ toll-free 1-877-221-SAFE

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