



HUGHES

SPACE AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP
RADAR SYSTEMS GROUP

HOW TO REACT TO A QUAKE

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The American Red Cross now recommends the following actions if an earthquake strikes, and you are . . .

In your home. Do not run outside. Most earthquake-related injuries happen outdoors. Get away from windows, mirrors, and light fixtures. Watch out for tall bookcases or china cases that might topple. Climb under a table or desk, or stand in a doorway if possible. If this is not possible, crouch against a solid wall. Get into a duck-and-cover position, using sofa cushions or pillows to protect your head.

In a car. Pull to the side of the road, if possible, and stop the car. Do not attempt to continue driving. Do not park under trees, light posts, or signs. Do not park on or under a bridge. Stay inside your car and get down on the floor.

In an office. Get under your desk or in a doorway, if possible. If not, crouch against a solid wall and protect your head with what is available, such as a book, notebook, large handbag, suit coat, or briefcase. Many offices have fake drop-ceiling tiles that are easily shaken loose by quakes, so protecting your head with something is a must.

In a mall/store. Get away from glass store fronts. Do not head for the exits, most of which are glass. Crouch against a solid wall. If you have children, put them against the wall and drape yourself over them in a crouching position. Make as small a target as possible. Do not attempt to use elevators or escalators.

In an elevator. Most elevators will automatically stop moving when the shaking starts. When the quake stops, stomp on the floor in an attempt to get someone to hear you. If possible, escape through the trapdoor at the top of the elevator, since there is a danger of fire.

In a restaurant. The safest place is under the table, since table tops are made of sturdy material. Do not attempt to run across the restaurant if you are at a table or booth near the windows. Climb under the table and protect your head. Many restaurants have objects on the walls that could fly across the room, so climbing under your own table is the best bet.

In a high-rise building. Climb under a desk or stand in a doorway. Stay clear of windows, shelves, cabinets, and glass partitions. Most high-rises are built so they will sway with a quake more than you would think, but it is actually a protection to keep them from toppling. Do not run for the exit, because the stairways may be broken and/or jammed with people. Do not attempt to use the elevator since the power may have failed.

In a parking garage. Do not run. Crouch against a pillar or solid wall, covering your head with your purse, jacket, or shopping bags. If you are in your car, do not attempt to drive. Stay in the car and get down on the floor.

Outdoors. Get to where there are the fewest possible hazards from above, away from trees, power poles, light posts, etc. Flying debris is what usually hurts people, so the fewer objects that are around you, the better.

On the beach. Stay put during the actual quake. There are very few dangers on the beach itself during a quake. When the shaking stops, get off the beach because a tsunami, a wall of water that can measure up to 40 feet, may have been triggered. Grab essentials and go to the parking lot. Remember to put on shoes or sandals, because there may be a lot of broken glass.