



Scenario Eight: Earthquake

A key element to successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster is the overall preparedness of individual citizens and their families. With that in mind, we invite you to participate in a series of ‘What would you do?’ scenarios with your loved ones to assess your level of preparedness. These tabletop activities are intended to be low-stress conversation starters to be discussed, as the name implies, around your dinner table. We do not want to know your results. Following the situation, we have included some discussion questions for the activity, as well as some helpful links to enhance your individual preparedness.

Scenario: You are awakened by a weird feeling. You can’t put your finger on what it is at first, but then suddenly you realize your bedroom is shaking. Items sitting on your dresser are rolling off and crashing to the floor, furniture begins to topple over, windows crack. The shaking quickly stops, leaving behind only the sound of car alarms and neighborhood dogs barking. You just experienced an earthquake.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you determine the level of earthquake risk for your area?
2. What is meant by “Drop, Cover, and Hold On!”?
3. Where could you go in your house to be safe while the earthquake is still occurring?
4. What should you do if you’re in a car when an earthquake occurs?
5. Discuss your family communication plan. How would you communicate with each other, or with other family and friends, if cell phones weren’t working and the internet wasn’t available?
6. If you were trapped, how would you let rescuers know you were trapped?
7. What supplies do you have in your family emergency kit?
8. Does anyone in your family have any special needs (such as medical, emotional or physical needs, or limited English proficiency) that might present challenges if you had to stay at a shelter? If so, have you prepared a special plan for them?
9. How should you get to safety after an earthquake?

Time to see how you did!

To learn more about this scenario and to check your plan, please visit:

<https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>. Discuss with your loved ones what steps you think you should take in order to improve your safety in the event an earthquake occurs.

Helpful Links: To learn how to prepare your home for an earthquake, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/inspecting.html>