

ESP FOCUS

Earthquakes



California is earthquake country!

On average, a damaging earthquake strikes somewhere in California every two years. Since 1987, however, Southern California alone has been hit by at least nine damaging quakes.

Seismologists believe that a major earthquake—magnitude 7 or larger—is likely to occur somewhere in Southern California within the next 30 years.

Because the San Andreas Fault is the longest fault in the region, it produces the largest earthquakes. Scientists estimate that large earthquakes on the San Andreas occur about every 130 years. The largest earthquake on the southern portion of the San Andreas in recorded history occurred in 1857. The fault ruptured all the way from Parkfield in southern Monterey County to Cajon Creek in San Bernardino County. Scientists estimate its magnitude at 7.8.

Recent events have shown that earthquakes on other faults can have considerable impacts. The Northridge earthquake in 1994 caused 57 deaths, more than 9,000 injuries and \$40-42 billion in property losses. Scientists estimate that more than 200 faults in the area are capable of causing an earthquake of magnitude-6 or greater. Most everyone in Southern California lives within 30 miles of one of these faults.

No one knows when or where such a quake will occur, but everyone can reduce their risk of death, injury and property loss in an earthquake by using the recommendations outlined on the reverse side of this Focus Sheet wherever they live, work or play.

Each month, ESP will examine a different hazard that could affect Californians and offer suggestions on how to reduce its impacts. These hazards are not limited to the month featured in the ESP Focus Sheet and can occur at any time.



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A P R I L

Before the Earthquake

- Update or assemble your emergency supply kit. Include the following supplies:
 - Nonperishable food and drinking water (one gallon per person, per day)
 - Foods for people with special needs (infants, seniors)
 - Additional food, water for pets
 - First aid kit and special medications
 - Flashlights
 - Battery operated radios
 - Extra batteries
 - Sturdy shoes, extra clothing, blankets
 - Sturdy work gloves
 - Emergency cash
 - Adjustable wrench and other tools
 - Whistle
 - Manual can opener
- Choose an out-of-state contact.
- Identify the safe spots in each room:
 - Sturdy desks and tables
 - Interior walls
- Identify hazards in each room:
 - Windows
 - Mirrors
 - Hanging objects
 - Fireplaces
 - Tall unsecured furniture
- Reduce hazards:
 - Check chimney, roof and foundation.
 - Bolt the house to the foundation.
 - Strengthen cripple walls.
 - Brace water heater and other appliances.
 - Secure hazards identified in hazard hunt.
 - Place heavy and breakable objects on lower shelves.
- Hold practice drills.
- Learn first aid and CPR.
- Learn how and when to turn off utilities.

During the Earthquake

- If you're indoors, stay inside. Duck, cover and hold. Avoid windows and outside walls. Do not use elevators.
- If you're outdoors, find an open area. Avoid trees, buildings, walls and power lines.
- If you're driving, pull to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses, signs and other hazards. Stay in the car until the shaking stops.

After the Earthquake

- Check yourself and those around you for injuries.
- Prepare for aftershocks.
- Check for utility problems:
 - Gas leaks
 - Water leaks
 - Broken wiring and sewage lines
- Turn off utilities only if there's damage.
- Check your supplies.
- Use the phone only to advise your "out-of-state" contact of your condition and to report immediate, life-threatening emergencies.
- Check your house for damage.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- Avoid unnecessary driving.
- Leave a written message indicating where you are headed and your physical condition if you evacuate your home, work place or car.

Extracted and adapted from "Ready to Ride It Out?," California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

GETTING IT DONE IN 2001 PREPARING FOR ALL HAZARDS



This action sheet is produced as part of the Earthquake Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase individual and home earthquake preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES); representatives from Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Yuma counties; and representatives from Southern California Edison assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.