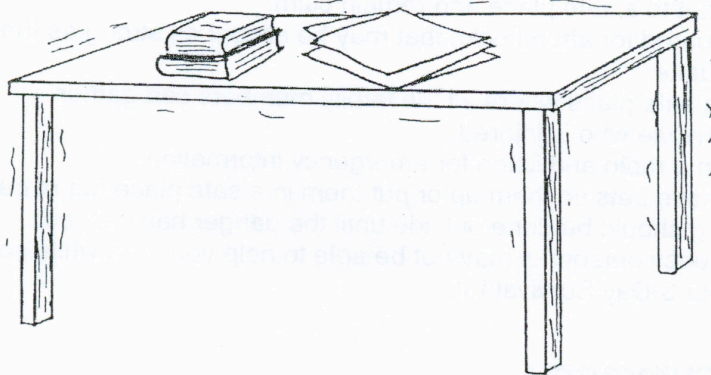


Preparing for Natural Hazards

Lesson 15

People all over the world live where natural hazards can occur. People living in the southeast part of the United States must live with the threat of hurricanes. Other people must contend with blizzards, tornadoes, flash floods, extreme heat, volcanoes, and earthquakes. Emergency personnel living in areas where each of these natural hazards occurs ask people to be prepared for an emergency. This lesson is about how you can prepare for an emergency, especially earthquakes.

There is a saying about earthquakes that you need to remember. **Earthquakes don't kill people, buildings and other falling objects do.** It is important for you to practice how to be safe during an earthquake because earthquakes can occur anywhere in the world. You and your family need to plan where you will meet in case of an emergency. This place should be outside your home where it would be safe to gather.



Earthquake! Drop and Cover

Earthquake safety check list of things to do

If you are inside

- ◆ Stay inside.
- ◆ Take cover immediately under a table, desk, or counter.
- ◆ Place your hands over your neck and head to protect them.
- ◆ If there are not any desks or tables available for protection stand in a doorway.
- ◆ Stay clear of windows, bookcases, mirrors and fireplaces.
- ◆ If you are under a table hold onto one of the legs if it starts to move during the earthquake.
- ◆ Cover the back of your neck with your hands.
- ◆ Remain in a safe position until the shaking has stopped.
- ◆ Leave the building after the shaking stops and move to a safe area away from trees and power lines.

If you are outside

- ◆ Stay outside and get into the open away from falling objects.
- ◆ Go to an open area away from hazards like buildings, trees, walls, or power lines.

If you are in a crowded public place

- ◆ If you are in a crowded public place like a market or mall, do not rush for the exits. Other people may have the same idea and you can be hurt as people rush out.
- ◆ Seek shelter away from falling objects under a counter or some place away from falling shelves loaded with merchandise.

If you are in a car or bus

- ◆ The driver of the car should stop immediately away from power lines, bridges, overpasses, and underpasses.
- ◆ You should remain in the car and hold onto the car because cars help absorb the shock of earthquake waves.

Things to do after the earthquake

- ◆ Try to get to a safe place and remain calm.
- ◆ Be prepared for aftershocks that may be almost as strong as the original earthquake.
- ◆ Go to a safe place where all the family members can gather.
- ◆ Help anyone who is injured.
- ◆ Turn on a radio and listen for emergency information.
- ◆ If you have pets tie them up or put them in a safe place out of danger.
- ◆ Cooking should be done outside until the danger has passed.
- ◆ Emergency personnel may not be able to help you for a while so this is time to use your 3-Day Survival Kit.

Lesson summary

- ◆ **Be Prepared** is a good motto to follow no matter where you live because there are natural hazards all over the world.
- ◆ Duck under cover at the **first sign** of an earthquake.
- ◆ Stay away from windows, bookshelves, and fireplaces when you seek shelter.
- ◆ Remain calm and after the earthquake ends, go outside into an open area in case there are aftershocks, which might cause further damage.
- ◆ Help anyone who might have been injured during the earthquake.
- ◆ Emergency personnel may not be able to help you for several days so it is a good idea to have a 3-Day Survival Kit that has sufficient food and water for three days for each member of your family.