

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

pub# GSU2

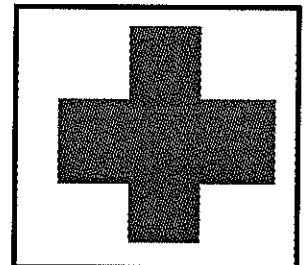
According to most recent estimates, there is a 90% probability of a major earthquake occurring in the Bay Area within the next 30 years. One way of coping with this danger is through earthquake preparedness education. Safety and survival depends on actions taken before an earthquake occurs, as well as those taken after the disaster.

Earthquake injuries can occur even during moderate earthquakes. Bookcases, file and storage cabinets may fall over and block exits. Machinery and furniture may slide. Bottles and other containers may fall from the shelves and release hazardous chemicals. Improperly constrained compressed gas cylinders may fall over, snap their valves, and act as unguided missiles. Light fixtures and overhead equipment may break loose and fall.

During an earthquake, it will instantly become dark and dusty and your work area will present new and hidden hazards. To reduce the risk of injuries, some relatively simple and inexpensive measures can be undertaken:

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

- ◆ Keep a flashlight and fresh batteries on hand.
- ◆ Wear practical shoes to avoid cutting your feet on broken glass or sharp, protruding objects.
- ◆ Secure items over 42" in height to a wall (bookcases, gas cylinders, equipment, etc.).
- ◆ Anticipate where any items might fall and rearrange your work space so that they do not block your exit.
- ◆ Place restraints on all shelving containing chemicals. Install lips along the front edges of shelves or use elastic cords or wire. Keep sliding doors on cabinets closed.
- ◆ Put latches on cabinet doors to hold them closed during shaking. Magnetic latches are not sufficient. Consider using childproof safety latches.
- ◆ Store heavy or large items on bottom shelves.
- ◆ Lock, block, or tie down heavy equipment that has wheels.



DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

INDOORS

Duck, Cover, and Hold Stay indoors and take cover under a desk, table, bench or against inside walls. Stay away from windows, mirrors, skylights, glass, and furniture or other objects that may fall over. Do not run for exits or use elevators. Stay inside to avoid being hit by falling debris or falling electrical wires.

OUTDOORS

Get away from high buildings, walls, power poles, and objects that could fall. Do not run through streets or alongside buildings. If possible, move to an open area.

CAR

Stop in the safest place available, preferably an open area away from buildings or other structures. Stay inside the vehicle.

AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- ◆ Be aware that there may be aftershocks following the earthquake that may be strong enough to cause additional damage.
- ◆ Do not smoke, use matches or other open flame devices.
- ◆ Check all utilities. If damage has occurred, report the exact location and nature of the damage to Facilities Management at 476-2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) at 476-1300 for assistance in identifying potential hazards in your work area and information on hazard abatement.

Audio/visual programs are also available from EH&S to assist departments in earthquake preparedness training.