

EARTHQUAKE

The following are some useful tips to help prepare for an earthquake:

- Look around your area and decide where the safe spots are: under sturdy tables, desks or against inside walls.
- Determine where the danger areas are: near windows, hanging objects, tall unsecured furniture (bookcases, cabinets, and appliances), and chemical sites. Most casualties in earthquakes result from falling materials.
- Store flammable and hazardous chemicals in proper cabinets.
- Keep breakables and heavy objects on lower shelves whenever possible. Make sure latches on cabinets, process tanks, storage tanks, and closets are secured.

During an earthquake:

- **DROP** to the ground; take **COVER** under a sturdy table or other furniture; and **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If there is not a table or desk near you, *cover* your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the room/building.
- Do not run out of the building during the shaking as objects may be falling *off* the building and cause serious injuries or death.
- Stay indoors if already there. If you are in a high-rise building, do not use elevators.
- If you are outdoors, stay in the open, away from buildings, trees, and power lines. Do not go near anything where there is a danger of falling debris.

After an earthquake:

- If it is safe to do so, help those who are injured or in need of special assistance.
- Be prepared for aftershocks. Earthquakes sometimes occur in a series of tremors, which could last for a period of several days. Aftershocks, or *even* a series of aftershocks, are common after earthquakes and may last for a few seconds to perhaps as long as 5 minutes or more.
- Do not re-enter damaged buildings. Aftershocks could knock them down.
- Be alert for gas and water leaks, broken electrical wiring, downed electrical lines, or ruptured sewer lines. Avoid these areas of danger if possible stay up hill and up wind.