

# City of Fairfax Earthquake Safety Checklist



## **Earthquake Preparedness**

- Determine safe places in your home, workplace, and/or school. A safe place could be a doorway, small closet, under a piece of heavy furniture or against an interior wall.
- If you do not have sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms. Danger spots include windows, near hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces, and tall unsecured pieces of furniture.
- If you are inside during an earthquake, drop, cover, and hold on. Move as little as possible.
- Stay indoors during an earthquake until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit.
- When leaving a building, use stairs instead of elevators.
- Learn how to shut off the gas valves in your home and keep a wrench handy for that purpose. Do not shut off gas unless an emergency exists. If gas is ever turned off, a professional must restore it.
- Keep and maintain an emergency supplies kit in an easy-to-access location.
- If you are outside during an earthquake, find a clear spot and drop to the ground. Stay away from buildings, power lines, trees, streetlights, etc. and stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are in a vehicle during an earthquake, pull over to a clear location and stop. Avoid bridges, overpasses, and power lines if possible. Keep your seatbelt on.
- After an earthquake, expect and prepare for potential aftershocks which may occur minutes, days, weeks, and even months following an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injuries.
- Look quickly for damage in and around your home and get everyone out if your home is unsafe.
- Listen to a portable, battery-operated or hand-crank radio for updated emergency information and instructions.
- Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.
- Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.
- Stay out of damaged buildings.
- Return to buildings only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be careful when driving and anticipate traffic light outages.
- Do not evacuate into a street or roadway as vehicles sometimes do not know an earthquake is happening and will not expect you entering the roadway.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit  
<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/emergency-management>

