

FACT SHEET: EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

DROP. COVER. HOLD ON.

PREPARE

Eliminate home hazards:

- Bolt bookcases to wall & install latches on cupboard doors
- Strap the water heater to wall studs
- Store breakable items on low, closed cabinets
- Practice Drop, Cover, and Hold On with family members
- Identify 'safe' places: such as under heavy tables
- Know how to use a fire extinguisher
- Have a disaster plan and supply kit

DURING

Take immediate action without delay.

- If you are indoors, DROP to the ground. Take COVER under a table or desk. HOLD ON until the shaking stops.
- If you cannot DROP, COVER, & HOLD ON get as low as possible, protect your head and neck - keep away from windows and items that can fall on you.
- If you are in bed, stay there, pull the covers and pillow over your head and hang on.
- If you are in a high-rise building, stay away from windows and outside walls. Do not use elevators.

If you are outdoors or driving during an earthquake:

- If you are outdoors, get to an open area away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines.
- If you are driving, pull safely to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses and power lines. Stay in your vehicle until the shaking is over.

AFTER

- Expect aftershocks.
- Look around to make sure it is safe to move.
- If you are trapped under debris, do not light a match. Cover your mouth with a piece of clothing and try to remain still. Tap on a pipe or wall to signal your location – shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale debris dust.
- Use the telephone for emergency calls only.
- Inspect utilities - check for gas leaks, downed powerlines, water mains, etc. Report these if identified,

REMEMBER

It will take time for public utilities and infrastructure to be repaired and brought back to normal service. Stay tuned for emergency information from local officials.

For more information, contact County of San Luis Obispo Office of Emergency Services

Phone Number: (805) 781-5011

Website: www.ReadySLO.org

Twitter Handle: @slocountyoes

Facebook page: facebook.com/slocountyoes

