

Procedures after the next Earthquake

➤ **Immediate Actions:**

- Monitor local news reports for emergency information and instructions.
 - If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust. Use your cell phone to call or text for help. Tap on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle, if available, so rescuers can locate you.
 - If you are in a damaged building and there is a safe way out through the debris, leave and go to an open space outside.
 - Check for injuries and provide assistance if you have training. Assist with rescues if you can do this safely.
 - If you are near the coast, learn the tsunami risk for your area. If you are in an area that may experience tsunamis, when the shaking stops, walk inland or to higher ground immediately. Monitor official reports for more information on the area's tsunami evacuation plans.
 - Stay away from damaged areas. Never use a lighter or matches near damaged areas. Check for and extinguish small fires.
 - Earthquakes can destroy or make buildings and roads unsafe. Be aware.
 - Use extreme caution around debris. Do not attempt to remove heavy debris by yourself and assist with rescues only if you can do so safely.
- Keep names and phone numbers of your electrician, heating contractor, plumber, fire department, and building owner easily accessible.
- Following your [**Emergency Action Plan**](#); account for all persons, provide search and rescue personnel with last known location of any missing victim(s).
- Follow your [**Medical Emergency Plan**](#): (pg. 6); do not move seriously injured individuals. If high-rise buildings are in the general area, falling debris may make open areas more dangerous than remaining inside the buildings. Watch out for fallen power lines and broken glass lines.
- Take these **recovery actions**:
- Survey the facilities for damage.
 - Take photographs of the damage.
 - Look for safety hazards such as live electrical wires, leaking gas, flammable liquids, corrosive/toxic materials, and damage to foundations or underground piping.
 - Expect aftershocks. These additional earthquakes are usually less violent than the main quake, but can be strong enough to further damage weakened structures. They can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake. Be

ready to protect yourself. Remove standing water so it will not add moisture to the building.

- Know that this will be an emotional time and it is normal to feel a little blue. Have available designated individuals to assist persons with depression or anxiety that persists or seems out of proportion for the circumstances. Replace building wiring that was submerged.
- Contact key personnel and notify contractors to start repairs.
- Conduct two-inch main drain and alarm tests on automatic fire protection sprinkler systems to verify public water supply availability.
- Begin salvage as soon as possible to prevent further damage:
 - Cover broken windows and torn roof coverings immediately.
 - Separate damaged goods.
 - Clean roof drains and remove debris from roofs.
 - Check refrigerated items for spoilage if there has been a power failure.
 - Limit access to freezers and refrigerated areas during periods of interrupted electrical service to maintain the temperatures as long as possible.