



Earthquake Preparedness: What to do During and After....



Hurricanes can affect all of Maryland. It is important to take mitigation action before the disaster to help minimize vulnerability. Remember, check your preparedness kit; make sure it is up to date and have a plan.

Homeowner Mitigation:

- Check the structural perimeters of your home or business; cover windows, doors and garage doors with plywood or 2x4's to add reinforcements.
- Check double entry doors/patio doors; cover doors to eliminate excessive wind inside.
- Ensure that your roof is properly braced for heavy winds; consult with your local building contractor
- Bring outdoor objects inside and/or anchor objects to prevent them from becoming airborne during high winds (lawn furniture, grills, outdoor fountains, toys).
- Secure heavy items on the walls and cupboards.
- Know how to turn off the gas, electricity and water.

During an Earthquake: Stay calm!

Stay inside until the shaking has stopped. Injuries occur when people inside homes or buildings attempt to move to a different location within the dwelling or attempt to leave.

- **If you're indoors, stay inside your home!**
 - Stand in the doorway or crawl under heavy furniture. If there isn't a sturdy table or other piece of furniture, stop, drop and cover your face and head with your arms.
 - Go to a basement or interior first floor room (bathroom, closet or under the stairs).
 - Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- **If in an office building, Do not go outside!**
 - Stay indoors; stand against a wall near the center of the building.
 - In a multi-story building, go to the first or second floor and take refuge in the hallway or an interior room away from windows.
 - Crawl under heavy furniture (such as a desk or table).
 - Don't use elevators.
- **If outside, Stay outside:**
 - Stay outside; in the open, away from street lights, power lines or anything that might fall.
 - Stay away from buildings (The building could fall on you).
- **If you're in a car:**
 - Pull over to the side of the road and stop. Do not stop near buildings, ramps,

trees, bridges, overpasses or utility wires.

- After the earthquake has stopped; proceed with caution.

What to Do After an Earthquake:

- Check yourself and others for injuries. Provide first aid as needed.
- Expect Aftershocks.
- Check water, gas and electrical lines for damage/leaks.
- Listen to your battery operated radio for updated weather reports.
- Stay away from damaged areas.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Exercise caution when opening doors and cabinets.