



Earthquake Facts

- Earthquakes happen without warning.
- Earthquakes can damage buildings, bridges, and dams. They also can disrupt gas, water, electric, cable, Internet, and phone service.
- Aftershocks are small earthquakes that follow a larger earthquake.
- Earthquakes are common on the West Coast, but can occur almost any place.
- Earthquakes can cause landslides, fires, and destructive ocean waves, called tsunamis.
- The Richter (RIK-ter) scale measures an earthquake's strength.
- The epicenter is the area closest to where the earthquake occurs.
- Earthquakes happen along faults that are cracks in the Earth's crust.

Things to do when you feel an earthquake that lasts longer than 20 seconds

- Drop, cover, and hold on.
- Follow your family's emergency plan.

What is a Tsunami Watch?

A **tsunami watch** means a dangerous tsunami has not yet been confirmed but could exist and may be as little as an hour away.

Things to do when a Tsunami Watch is issued

- Listen to your local radio for updates.
- Review your family's emergency plan. Make sure everyone knows there is a potential threat and the best way to get to safe ground.
- Be ready to evacuate.

What is a Tsunami Warning?

A **tsunami warning** means a dangerous tsunami may be close to your area. The warning includes predicted arrival times at selected geographic areas.

Things to do when a Tsunami Warning is issued

- Listen to your local radio for updates.
- Follow your family's emergency plan.
- Evacuate at once. Follow instructions by local authorities.
- Take your evacuation box with you.

What not to do after an earthquake

- Do **not** go near spilled medications, bleach, and hazardous liquids.
- Do **not** touch or go near fallen power lines.