

Should Things Get Shaky, Know What to Do



Stocking Our Disaster Kits Month Nine, February 2025

Nine months into a year-long effort to prepare for possible disaster, we're still collecting supplies for our households. This month, we also consider what we can do to protect ourselves in earthquake country.

To Do:

- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to help your children, special needs family members, or pets if you are not able to respond.
- Volunteer with a local disaster/emergency group (Portland NET, Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corps).

To Collect:

- 1 gallon juice*
- 3 cans fruit*
- Garbage bags
- Paper cups
- Blanket or sleeping bag*
- Change of clothing and sturdy footwear*

* For everything followed by an asterisk, be sure to multiply by the number of people in your household (e.g., a family of four people will need 4 blankets or sleeping bags).

Drop! Cover! Hold On!

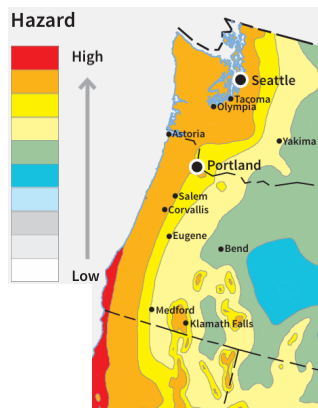


Living on Moving Ground

We're blessed to live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, but the geologic forces that produced high mountains, a rugged coastline, and dramatic vistas, also make Oregon one of the most earthquake-prone spots in the continental U.S. We fear "the big one" expected to top 9 on the Richter Scale, but know that even smaller quakes have the potential to do a lot of damage. How well we're able to get through an earthquake depends on what we know and how we prepare.

Get prepared now by: 1) Identifying and mitigating hazards; 2) Ready supplies; 3) Developing an emergency plan; and 4) Testing and practicing your plan.

Relative Risk Along the Fault



1. Shaking can collapse poorly built structures, but even if your home was built before seismic design requirements were instituted in the 1970s, you can take action. The most likely result of the ground shaking is injury by falling items in your home or place of business. Lights, television sets, bookshelves, stuff in your cupboards, can topple, but some of these things can be secured to the wall. And, if you have the resources, your home can be retrofitted for more protection.
2. Ready supplies is what we've been doing gradually month by month. Keep it up!
3. We've also worked on developing emergency plans. In case of an earthquake, though, the first thing we need to do is DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON. Because seconds matter, we need to act immediately! Before grabbing your Go Kit, take cover!
4. Conduct an earthquake drill, creating an earthquake scenario and acting out your plan. Are there weak points you should address? Adjust your plan as needed.

In the past week (from January 24-January 31, 2025) the PNW has experienced [more than 100 small quakes](#), plus six larger ones. The Juan de Fuca oceanic plate is being pulled under North America, moving about an inch each year. It's along this Cascadia Subduction Zone that 40 great earthquakes have occurred in known history, the last one in 1700. Geologists estimate these big events occur irregularly every 200-800 years.

You'll find reliable earthquake preparedness information at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oem/hazardsprep/pages/earthquakes.aspx#>

This Oregon Department of Emergency Management page includes sections on what actions homeowners can take to mitigate quake damage, advice on how to secure your space, what to know about earthquake insurance, home tie-downs, retrofits, and more.