

# Earthquake Guidelines

[Link – GWC faculty and staff guidelines for earthquake response](#)

## What happens during a major earthquake?

- Things may fall and break: ceiling tiles, bookcases, file cabinets, and other furniture that has not been anchored to walls or floors.
- The motion may be severe; if you are standing you may be thrown to the ground.
- Many services may stop working: lights, telephones, elevators, heat and air conditioning.
- Some exterior windows may break, causing shattered glass and strong drafts.
- Possible fires from broken natural gas lines, electrical short circuits or other causes.
- The shaking may last only a minute or two, but there may be a number of aftershocks (over several days / weeks / months).

## During the earthquake:

- If you are outside, stay outside. Move quickly to an open area away from buildings, trees, power lines, roadways.
- If you are inside a building, stay inside. Do not evacuate or go outside; falling debris could cause injury.
  - Take cover next to a desk or table or shelter in a doorway.
  - **DUCK, COVER, & HOLD** until the shaking stops! **PROTECT YOUR HEAD AND NECK.**
  - Keep away from overhead fixtures, windows, filing cabinets, bookcases, and other objects that could fall on you.
  - Assist any disabled person in the area and find a safe place for them.
  - **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.**

## What if you are in an elevator?

- If you are in an elevator, you are probably better protected than most people. The elevator will not fall down the shaft, and nothing heavy can fall on you.
- If the power fails, the elevators will stop and lights will go off. Public Safety will respond as quickly as possible and advise you how rescue will occur. Upon rescue, take directions from emergency personnel.

## **After the earthquake:**

- Check for injuries, give or seek first aid. **DO NOT MOVE INJURED PERSONS UNLESS NECESSARY.**
- Alert emergency responders (Police, Fire, EMS) to situations requiring their attention.
- Assist any disabled person in the area and find a safe place for them.
- Turn on a battery-powered radio, if you have one, to learn about what has happened. The four AM stations in the L.A./OC area required to broadcast emergency information are: KFI/AM 640, KABC/AM 790, KNX/AM 1070, and KVNR/AM 1330 (Vietnamese).
- Replace telephone handsets that have been shaken off. Do not try to use telephones except to report fires or medical emergencies.
- Check doors for heat before opening.
- Use handrails in stairwells; stay to the right. **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.**
- Walk — **DO NOT RUN.** Do not push or crowd.
- Keep noise to a minimum so that you can hear emergency instructions.
- Move to your assembly area (**listed on campus map**) by safest route available, unless otherwise instructed.
- Wait for and follow instructions from your Building Marshals. Be prepared for aftershocks, and be prepared to evacuate to lower floors, if necessary.
- If away from your workplace at the time of the quake, do not return to your workplace unless instructed by emergency personnel.

## **What happens to the college during this time?**

- Plans have been made for all essential college functions to continue on a temporary basis.
- Personnel and facilities are designated to carry on operations on a limited basis.
- Alternate office facilities will be established, if necessary. GWC will restore normal operations as soon as possible.

## **Earthquake Links**

[A Child's View of Earthquake Facts and Feelings](#)

[American Red Cross-San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter](#)

Disaster preparedness information as it pertains to our local community.

[National Earthquake Information Center](#)

Why earthquakes happen; current earthquake activity and maps; how quake magnitude and intensity is measured; and other facts.

[OES \( California Office of Emergency Services\) Earthquake Page](#)

Earthquake preparedness guidelines for home, work (in English and Spanish).

[Southern California Earthquake Data Center](#)

Information on recent earthquakes; educational materials.

[Southern California Seismic Network \(SCSN\)](#)

A cooperative project of the U.S. Geological Survey Pasadena office and the Caltech Seismological Laboratory, SCSN is one of the largest and most automated seismic networks in the world.

[USGS Earthquake Hazards Page](#)

From the U.S. Geological Survey, information on worldwide earthquake activity, earthquake science, and earthquake hazard reduction.

[U.S. Geological Survey/Southern California](#)

How to prepare your home, business and family for earthquake hazards; earthquake probabilities; shaking hazard maps; facts.

[USGS Earthquakes for Kids](#)

Educational activities and links.