

Earthquake Protocol

I. Introduction

Earthquakes are rare in the New England region. Most of these earthquakes are so small they can only be detected by sensitive instruments. However, damaging earthquakes do occasionally occur in our area. The danger and risks of earthquakes can be reduced if people know what actions to take before, during and after an earthquake.

II. Protocol

Before an Earthquake

1. Check for Hazards
 - Make sure shelves are secure.
 - Store breakables and heavy objects on lower shelves.
2. Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors
 - Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
 - Against an inside wall.
 - Away from glass that could shatter or heavy bookcases or furniture that could fall over.
3. Have Disaster Supplies on Hand
 - Bottled water, food, first aid kit, flashlight, battery operated radio, batteries, personal hygiene items.

During an Earthquake

1. If you are INDOORS:
 - Stay indoors!
 - DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table, bench or desk and HOLD on. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch down into a ball next to an interior wall.

Move away from windows that may break and furniture or large objects that could fall over.

- Be aware that the electricity may go out.
 - If you are in BED stay there! Hold on and put a pillow over your head for protection.
 - If you are in a THEATER OR STADIUM, stay in your seat or get under it if possible, and protect your head with your arms. Do not try to leave until the shaking is over.
 - If you are in a CROWDED ROOM OR PUBLIC PLACE, do not rush for exits. Move away from display shelves holding objects that could fall on you and “drop, cover, and hold.”
 - DO NOT use elevators.
2. If you are OUTDOORS:
- Stay outdoors!
 - Move to an open area away from trees, buildings, utility poles and lines, or signs.
 - If you are in a DOWNTOWN AREA, on a sidewalk near a tall building, get inside the building’s lobby to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass or other debris.
 - Greatest danger exists directly outside buildings at exits and alongside exterior walls.
3. If you are DRIVING:
- Pull to the side of the road as quickly as possible, but keep away from overhead hazards such as trees, buildings, utility poles and lines, signs, and bridges. Stay in the vehicle until the shaking stops.

After an Earthquake

1. Check yourself and those around you for injuries.

2. Only after the shaking stops, evacuate cautiously, taking your keys, wallet, purse, coat, and any emergency supplies.
3. On your way out, look for signs of building damage or for persons who are injured or trapped. Watch for falling objects as you leave the building.
4. Be prepared for aftershocks.
5. Turn on a battery-powered or vehicle radio if available for information.
6. If possible, do not use the phone for local calls, except emergencies, during the first 15-30 minutes after the earthquake. Overloading the phone system with calls may delay the delivery of emergency assistance.

REVISED 1/13

EARTHQUAKE PROTOCOL CHECKLIST

BSU POLICE HAVE RESPONDED.

AFFECTED PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN CHECKED FOR INJURIES.

AFFECTED AREAS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED.

AREA HAS BEEN MADE SAFE BY EMERGENCY CREWS.

PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BACK INTO THE AREA WHEN SAFE TO DO SO.

EMERGENCY MESSAGE HAS BEEN ACTIVATED.

COMMUNITY IS ADVISED TO PREPARE FOR AFTERSHOCKS.

EARTHQUAKE CHECKLIST