

Earthquake Safety

Identifying Hazards

Earthquakes can strike suddenly, so it is important to be prepared. There are many things in our homes, school, and community that could cause us harm during an earthquake.

We refer to these things as “hazards.” Potential hazards include objects that might fall, break, or catch fire during an earthquake.

Lesson 2

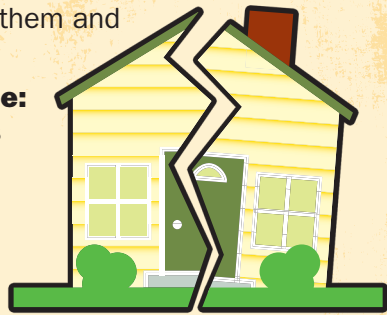
There may be many hazards that we cannot correct. But identifying these hazards will help us to anticipate them and avoid danger and injury.

Hazards inside a building may include:

- falling ceiling plaster and light fixtures
- overturned bookcases and other tall furniture or appliances
- falling objects from shelves and walls such as mirrors

Hazards outside a building may include:

- toppling chimneys
- falling brick from walls
- collapsing walls
- falling glass from broken windows



Learn how to recognize and avoid the following additional hazards that can be caused by an earthquake:

- downed power lines
- damage to bridges and roads
- fires from spilled gasoline and other chemicals
- flooding from damage to dams, reservoirs and water towers
- landslides



Activity:

1. Conduct a hazard hunt in the classroom or throughout the school building.
2. Identify potential hazards in the classroom that may cause injury during an earthquake.
3. How do you avoid these hazards and stay safe during an earthquake?

Discussion:

1. What types of earthquake hazards would you find inside your homes?
2. What can you do to make those hazards safer?
3. How can you stay safe from these hazards by practicing “Drop, Cover, and Hold On?” (from Lesson 1)

For more information on conducting a Hazard Hunt in the classroom, download the Earthquake Safety Activities for Children & Teacher manual at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/earthquake/schools.shtm>



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