

Earthquake Safety

Now that you've learned how to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" and how to identify hazards in your school and home, the next step is creating a **Family Earthquake Plan**.

Think about each different place you might be during an earthquake: home, school, outdoors, in a vehicle, or at a friend or family member's house. What would you do in each of these places if an earthquake occurred?

Lesson 3

Create a Family Earthquake Plan

Just like with tornadoes, house fires and winter weather, it is important to be prepared for an earthquake by making a plan for you and your family to stay safe during an earthquake.

Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors

- **Inside:** Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- **Inside:** Away from windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- **Outside:** In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated expressways.

Create an Earthquake Safety Kit

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Emergency food and water.
- Nonelectric can opener.
- Essential medicines.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Sturdy shoes.



Develop an Emergency Communication Plan

- In case family members are separated from one another during an earthquake, develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.



Discussion:

1. What things would you not be able to take with you if you had to leave your house in a hurry?
2. What things would you really need for your Earthquake Safety Kit?

Activity:

1. Prepare an Earthquake Safety Kit for the classroom.
2. Ask the kids to create a kit for their homes, either by drawing a kit with each item or by bringing the kit to class for show and tell.

