

★ Emergency Preparedness ★

Earthquake



Don't Be Scared ★ Be Prepared

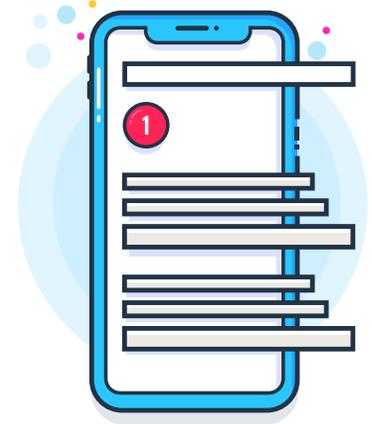
Keep These in Your Vehicle

There are some things you can do on a regular basis and some specific preparations you can make that will get you closer to ready for when an earthquake occurs.

- » Extra water, food, and medicines, enough for three days.
- » Your medical history and medications list.
- » At least one-quarter tank of gas.
- » A working flashlight and a solar lantern.
- » A charging cable for your cell phone.

★ Stay Connected

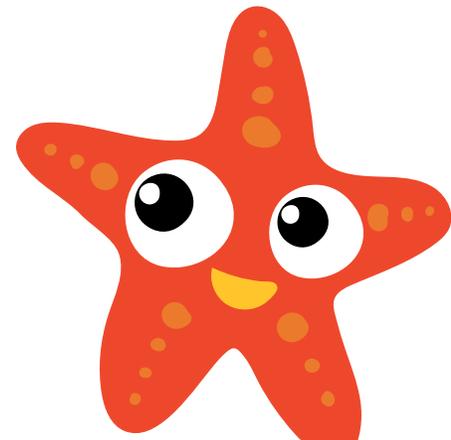
- » Put important numbers into your phone, including emergency services numbers.
- » Install the **Monterey Alert** app on your phone and set it to get traffic updates from **Caltrans**.
- » Make a written copy of all phone numbers you think you may need in case your phone won't or can't charge or is broken or **lost**.



★ Avoid Things That Can Fall

The thing we're most concerned about in an earthquake is falling objects, so think about where you'd park your vehicle to avoid falling **roof tiles, trees, tree branches, overhead wires, or utility poles**. For the same reason, you don't ever want to store heavy or hard objects above your head or body in your vehicle.

Stay aware of your surroundings
and you'll be just fine!



★ If You Feel an Earthquake Begin

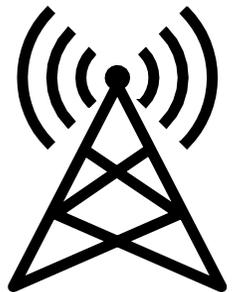
Get into your vehicle and close the door. Keep the engine, lights, and fan/heater/air conditioner off and put on your seatbelt. **If you're driving**, slow down until you can safely pull over and stop out of range of objects that may fall. Park where other drivers can see you and not hit you when *they're* looking for a place to park. If you're on a highway, take the first safe exit and park away from overpasses and other objects that may fall.

Stay in Your Vehicle

Stay inside your vehicle **with your seatbelt on** until the quake is over. This is a good time to **check your radio and phone for news**. Look around to make sure you're not under or next to objects that can fall. If you need to move your vehicle, do that as soon as the quaking stops. **Expect aftershocks but stay calm.** Often, they're not as strong as the initial quake. Find out by radio or phone if roadways are free of fallen objects and debris. You may receive an official alert or other instructions to move your vehicle.

★ If You Have To Move Your Vehicle

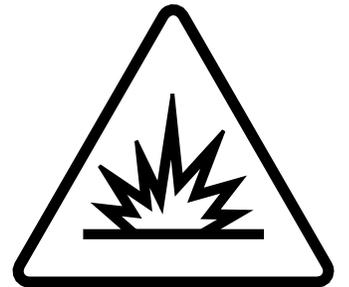
Make sure you feel calm enough and can focus on driving safely; if you're not, take a little time to quiet and focus yourself for the next step. You may be told to stay where you are or to move to a certain location, so continue to listen for that information. In a situation like this, **avoid using your phone for personal calls** so that emergency personnel can contact one another. Too many phone calls after an emergency can overload cell phone towers.



★ Passing the Smell Test

Now that the quaking has stopped and you know the roads are clear, there are still a couple of things to do. You'll want to **open your door to check for natural gas or other fuel odors**. Earthquakes can cause gas lines to crack or break.

**If you smell natural gas or fuel,
don't do anything that could
create a spark!**



If You Smell Natural Gas or Fuel

Walk away from the area quickly.

- » **Don't** turn on a flashlight or any electrical devices.
- » **Don't** start your vehicle, sound your horn, or plug in your cell phone.
- » **Don't** turn on your cell phone. **Don't even use it!**
- » **Don't** light matches or cigarettes.
- » **Don't** use road flares or turn on your vehicle's lights.

★ If Power Lines Fall on Your Vehicle

Stay inside! Call 911, sound your horn, or lower the window and call for help. Warn other folks to stay at least 50 feet away from your vehicle because the ground can be energized.

Don't even hand anything to anyone outside your vehicle, and **don't touch any wires.** The safe thing to do is wait until the utility company turns the power off and removes the wires.

★ Downed Lines & Exiting Your Vehicle

Now, imagine an emergency forces you to leave your vehicle *even though a downed power line is touching it*. If that happens, **don't touch the vehicle and the ground outside at the same time, even for half a second**. Open your door and, staying *inside* the vehicle, move to **stand on the inside edge of the door frame**, but ***do not* touch anything outside your vehicle**, including the pavement.



Downed Lines & Exiting Your Vehicle

When you're standing in the door frame, **cross your arms** over your chest and **jump free of the vehicle without touching it**. Keep your feet together (touching each other) and land with them together. **Never separate your feet**. Always keep them pressed together where they touch the ground. Now, hop or shuffle away from your vehicle with **both feet touching the ground at the same time**. **Never lift *one* foot off the ground at a time**. **Never take big steps or crawl to move away**. If you feel tingling in your feet, hop away from the vehicle until the tingling stops AND you're **50 feet away**.

★ You Survived! But Be Cautious...

Well, you survived. And when you finally get the “all-clear” and can drive away, you’ll still want to be careful not to drive over downed wires because other lines or poles could be pulled down. Avoid moving or driving over debris or fallen trees or branches that can *hide* downed wires. And never try to drive under a damaged pole or partially fallen power line.

Stay aware of your surroundings and you’ll be just fine!

You Can Do It!

This is a lot to absorb, and *you can* do it. Read through this information again at your leisure until you feel like you'll remember it.

Don't be scared. Be prepared.

Acknowledgements

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Slides: Keith Proctor | Art: Seismograph by CombineDesign at the thenounproject.com. Starfish by terdpongvector, woman with list by Freepik Storyset at freepik.com.

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