

## EARTHQUAKES

The danger and risks of earthquakes can be reduced if people know what actions to take before, during and after an earthquake.

*The University provides the following instructions to help UW personnel, students and visitors prepare for responding to an emergency on the Seattle campus. University units and departments can modify these instructions for their specific location(s) and add them to their Fire Safety and Evacuation Plans.*

### IF YOU ARE INSIDE A BUILDING

- **Drop, cover and hold:**
  - Under a desk, table, or chair
  - In a corner or along the wall in a hallway away from windows
  - Near structurally strong locations such as a hall by a pillar
- **Do not use the elevators.**
- **Watch for falling objects** such as light fixtures, bookcases, cabinets, shelves, and other furniture that might slide or topple.
- **Stay away from windows.**
- **Do not run outside.** Exits may be damaged and the building's exterior brick, tile, and decorations may be falling off. Be cautious; maintain awareness of your surroundings.

### IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE A BUILDING

- **Stay outside.** Stay clear of electrical wires, poles, trees, or anything that might fall.

### AFTER A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE (MAGNITUDE 7.0 AND ABOVE)

- **Check for injuries to people in your area.** Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger. **Provide first aid** (if you are qualified).
- **Call 9-1-1.** Emergency services may not be able to respond for up to 72 hours.
- **Avoid areas of** hazardous material spills, gas leaks, fires, and fallen objects.
- **Turn off ignition and heat sources** if it is safe to do so.
- **Exit the building** if structurally damaged, taking emergency/first-aid kit and personal belongings. Go to your evacuation assembly point. Report building damages and potentially hazardous conditions using the [Post-Earthquake Checklist](#).
- **Do not re-enter a damaged building** until it has been declared safe by the University's Seismic building inspections [\(ATC-20\)](#) teams or other trained professionals.
- **Expect aftershocks** (i.e., smaller earthquakes that follow a larger one).

### AFTER A MINOR EARTHQUAKE (BELOW 7.0 MAGNITUDE)

- **Restore calm** to those around you, if possible.
- **Examine your area for damage.** Staff members may use the [Post-Earthquake Checklist](#) to make an initial assessment as to whether the building should remain occupied.
- **If obvious structural damage is identified**, evacuate the building and report observations to UW Police Department by calling 9-1-1.
- **Do not re-enter** buildings with structural damage until the building has been declared safe by the University's seismic building inspection [\(ATC-20\)](#) team or other trained professionals.
- **Laboratories:** Review the UW [Laboratory Safety Manual](#) or your [Lab Continuity Plan](#) for specific earthquake procedures.