
EvCC Emergency Operations Guide
Guide #005 - Earthquakes

1. INTRODUCTION

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently, and without warning. There is a likelihood of a large earthquake occurring in the City of Everett and Snohomish County. However, it is unknown when it will occur.

2. EARTHQUAKE IF YOU ARE INDOORS

- A. Take cover next to or under a heavy piece of furniture (such as a desk or table) or against an inside wall and hold on.
- B. Avoid areas where glass, mirrors, pictures, could shatter or where heavy bookcases or other furniture could fall.
- C. Watch for falling objects such as light fixtures, bookcases, cabinets, shelves or furniture that might slide or topple.
- D. If possible, do not seek cover under laboratory tables or benches. Chemicals could spill and harm personnel.
- E. Stay inside while the earthquake is occurring. Running outside increases the risk of being injured.
- F. When it is safe to do so, evacuate the building to an Evacuation Assembly Area.

3. EARTHQUAKE IF YOU ARE OUTDOORS

- A. Move into the open – away from buildings, trees, light poles, and utility wires that could fall.
- B. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

4. AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

- A. Be prepared for aftershocks, which can be as intense as the initial earthquake.
- B. Check for injured persons in your building or area. Do not move the injured individual unless there is serious danger to the person's safety.
- C. Check for fires or fire hazards such as spills of flammable or combustible liquids or leaks of flammable gases.
- D. Turn off ignition and heat sources if it safe to do so. Shut off all gas sources.
- E. Do not use any open flames or permit smoking.

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- F. If you smell gas in your building, evacuate the area immediately and notify college officials.
- G. Stay away from fallen or damaged electric wires.
- H. Contact the Emergency Operations Center to notify them of any needed assistance and emergencies that may exist.
- I. Use the telephone system only for urgent matters.
- J. If asked to evacuate it is your responsibility to comply.

5. EVACUATION PROCEDURES AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

- A. Walk – do not run – to the nearest exit, if you are indoors.
- B. Take your personal belongings with you.
- C. If you are on an upper floor, take the stairs.
- D. Do not use the elevators
- E. Assist any disabled or injured persons who are not able to leave the area quickly by themselves.
- F. Go to a pre-established Evacuation Assembly Area or away from the buildings.
- G. Do not reenter the buildings until instructed that it is safe by the Emergency Response Team.