

Earthquake

Earthquakes can occur without warning and are among the most significant natural hazards facing Southern California. While most earthquakes are minor, larger events can result in structural damage, utility disruptions, hazardous conditions, and aftershocks. Because earthquakes strike suddenly, preparedness and immediate protective actions are essential to reducing injuries and protecting lives.

The Master's University Emergency Management Department, in coordination with Campus Safety and local emergency response agencies, continuously plans, trains, and prepares for earthquake emergencies. Following a significant earthquake, Campus Safety personnel and university officials will assess campus conditions, coordinate emergency response operations, and provide timely information and instructions to the campus community.

Response Actions: Drop, Cover, and Hold On

DURING THE EARTHQUAKE

If you are indoors when an earthquake occurs:

- DROP to your hands and knees before the earthquake knocks you down.
- COVER your head and neck and take shelter under a sturdy desk or table if available.
- HOLD ON to your shelter until the shaking stops.
- Stay away from windows, glass, bookcases, filing cabinets, and other objects that may fall from the shaking.
- Do not run outside during the shaking.
- Do not use elevators.

If you are unable to get under a sturdy object:

- Move away from windows and exterior walls.
- Cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Stay low until the shaking stops.

IF YOU ARE OUTDOORS

- Move to an open area away from buildings, trees, utility poles, streetlights, and downed power lines.
- Drop to the ground and protect your head and neck.
- Remain in the open area until the shaking stops.

IF YOU ARE IN A VEHICLE

- Pull over to a safe location away from overpasses, bridges, trees, downed power lines, and buildings.
- Set the parking brake and remain inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.
- Continue cautiously after the earthquake, avoiding damaged roads and bridges.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

After the shaking stops:

- Check yourself and others for injuries.
- Call 911 for life-threatening emergencies.
- Contact TMU Campus Safety at (661) 713-7561.
- Expect aftershocks and be prepared to Drop, Cover, and Hold On again.
- Evacuate buildings if instructed by university officials or if there are signs of structural damage to the building.
- Avoid damaged buildings until they have been evaluated.
- Stay away from downed power lines, broken glass, and hazardous materials spills.
- Use text messaging when possible to communicate, as phone lines may become congested with overuse.

Building Evacuation

If instructed to evacuate:

- Remain calm and proceed carefully to the nearest safe exit.
- Do not use elevators.
- Assist others if you can do so safely.

- Move to the designated assembly area.
- Remain there until instructed otherwise by university officials or emergency responders.

Campus Response

Following a significant earthquake:

- Campus Safety personnel will conduct immediate life safety assessments.
- Emergency Management personnel may activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- University officials will provide emergency information through Mustang Alert and other official communication channels.
- Emergency responders will prioritize life safety, fire suppression, medical response, and damage assessment operations.

Preparedness

Prepare before an earthquake occurs by:

- Knowing evacuation routes and assembly locations.
- Registering for Mustang Alert emergency notifications.
- Maintaining an emergency kit with essential supplies.
- Securing heavy furniture and personal belongings.
- Participating in campus emergency drills and preparedness training.

Remember: During an earthquake, your best protection is to Drop, Cover, and Hold On. After the shaking stops, remain alert, expect aftershocks, and follow instructions from university officials and emergency responders.

