

EARTHQUAKES

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According to the Indiana Geological Survey, on April 18th at 5:36AM EDT a 5.2 earthquake struck in the Wabash Valley seismic zone. The epicenter was located approx. 5 miles NW of Mt. Carmel, IL and 38 miles N-NW of Evansville, IN. You can view recent earthquake activity at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/recenteqsus/>. Many Hoosiers are unsure what to do in the event of an earthquake. Hopefully after reading this article you will be prepared.

Preparing for an earthquake is very similar to preparing for a tornado:

1. Practice dropping under a sturdy desk or table, or against an interior wall away from windows, bookcases, or tall furniture that could fall on you, hold on, and protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arm.
2. Eliminate hazards by bolting bookcases, china cabinets and other tall furniture to wall studs, strap water heaters to wall studs, and install strong latches on cupboards.
3. Prepare a disaster kit for your home and car. A disaster kit should include: first aid kit, essential medications, canned food, can opener, at least 3 gallons of water per person, protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags, battery powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members, written instructions for how to turn off gas, electric and water if you are advised to do so.
4. Always keep sturdy shoes and a flashlight at your bedside.
5. Chose an out of town family contact person.

Take the following steps to stay safe during an earthquake:

1. Drop, cover and hold on. Move only a few steps to a nearby safe place. Stay indoors, away from windows, until the shaking stops and you're sure it's safe to exit.
2. If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protect your head with a pillow.
3. If you are outdoors, find a clear spot away from buildings, trees and power lines, and drop to the ground.
4. If you are in a car, slow down and drive to a clear place, as outlined above. Remain in the car until the shaking stops.

Take the following steps after an earthquake, when damage has occurred:

1. Check yourself for injuries. Put on long pants, a long sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves. Check others for injuries and give first aid.
2. Look for and extinguish small fires. Turn off the gas if you smell gas or if you think it is leaking. Remember only a professional can turn natural gas service back on.
3. Listen to the radio for instructions.
4. Expect aftershocks. Each time you feel one drop, cover and hold on.
5. Inspect your house for damage. Get everyone out if your home is unsafe.
6. Use the telephone only to report life-threatening emergencies.

Information for this article was obtained at the American Red Cross website, www.redcross.org.