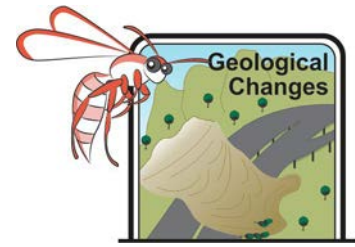


Earthquakes: What To Do - Teacher Notes



Earthquakes can be scary to experience, but with a little knowledge and planning, we can avoid many of the dangerous effects of earthquakes. For example, because the government had warned people to bolt furniture to the walls, fewer people were injured by falling bookcases and wardrobes during the most recent earthquakes in New Zealand.

There is a good video about earthquake safety from the State Emergency Services at <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/earthquake/Pages/default.aspx>

Remember to telephone the State Emergency Service if you experience a severe earthquake. In Western Australia, the number is 13 25 00 for help or 000 for ambulance.

The steps below are based on advice provided by Geoscience Australia. Different situations or places might require different kinds of safety measures. Think about the different scenarios below and discuss in your groups what you should do if you find yourself experiencing an earthquake.

If you are indoors:

- Drop to the ground and take cover under any sturdy piece of furniture until the shaking stops. If there is no cover, crouch in a corner of the room with your hands and arms folded above your head.
- Stay away from glass windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall on you. Watch out for overhead light fixtures or ceiling fans.
- Do not shelter in a doorway, as many inside doorways are not strong enough to offer protection.
- Do not use the elevator.
- Be aware that sprinklers may turn on and fire alarms turn off.

If you are outdoors:

- Move away from buildings, streetlights, and power lines which might fall down.

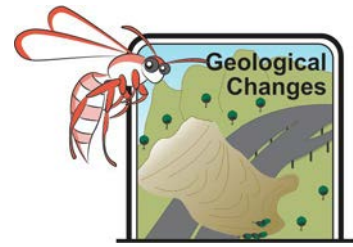
If you are in a moving vehicle:

- Stop as soon as it is safe to do so. Avoid buildings and power lines.
- Proceed as soon as shaking has stopped. Avoid bridges or ramps, which might have been damaged.

If you are trapped under debris:

- Do not light a match in case there is a gas leak.
- Tap on a pipe or wall to attract attention. Avoid shouting and kicking up dust which might make you inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

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Communicating Science to People

When we are in stressful or dangerous situations, it can be difficult to remember all the advice we've learned before. Simple, clear posters are a great way to help remind people what to do in emergency situations.

Design a simple poster to prepare and calm people living in earthquake-prone regions. You want to write a clear message that is memorable and helps people understand how to survive a dangerous earthquake. In the area below, draw what the poster will look like. [Look for a simple, clear, memorable message like "stop, drop, and roll" or "keep calm and carry on"](#).