

**ESP**

**FOCUS**

## Drop! Cover! Hold On!



### Protect Yourself During Earthquake Shaking!

Learn what to do during an earthquake, whether you're at home, work or school. Taking the proper actions, such as "Drop, Cover, and Hold On", can save lives and reduce your risk of death and injury. During earthquakes, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.

The area near the exterior walls of a building is the most dangerous place to be. Windows, facades and architectural

details are often the first parts of the building to collapse. To stay away from this danger zone, stay inside if you are inside and outside if you are outside.

Use the information on the reverse side of this Focus Sheet to help you become more prepared. Take part in earthquake safety exercises.

### Check these websites

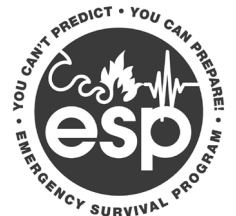
<http://dropcoverholdon.org/> (dropcoverholdon.org/espanol)

[www.earthquakecountry.org](http://www.earthquakecountry.org) (Earthquake Country Alliance/Southern California Earthquake Center)

[www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org) (Emergency Survival Program)

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) (American Red Cross)

[www.shakeout.org/scenario](http://www.shakeout.org/scenario)



## DO NOT Head for the Doorway



An enduring earthquake image of California is a collapsed adobe home with the door frame as the only standing part. From this came our belief that a doorway is the safest place to be during an earthquake. True—if you live in an old, unreinforced adobe house. In modern houses, doorways are no stronger than any other part of the house. **You are safer taking cover under a sturdy table or desk.**

### If you are...

**Indoors:** Drop, cover, and hold on. During earthquakes, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops. If you are not near a desk or table, drop to the floor against the interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances, and kitchen cabinets with heavy objects or glass. Do not go outside!



**In bed:** If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor has caused injury to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to doorways.



**In a high-rise:** Drop, cover, and hold on. Avoid windows and other hazards. Do not use elevators. Do not be surprised if sprinkler systems or fire alarms activate.



**Outdoors:** Move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards.



**Driving:** Pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.



**In a stadium or theater:** Stay at your seat and protect your head and neck with your arms. Don't try to leave until the shaking is over. Then walk out slowly watching for anything that could fall in the aftershocks.



**Near the beach:** Drop, cover, and hold on until the shaking stops. Estimate how long the shaking lasts. If severe shaking lasts 20 seconds or more, immediately evacuate to high ground as a tsunami might have been generated by the earthquake. Move inland 3 kilometers (2 miles) or to land that is at least 30 meters (100 feet) above sea level immediately. Don't wait for officials to issue a warning. Walk quickly, rather than drive, to avoid traffic, debris and other hazards.



**Below a dam:** Dams can fail during a major earthquake. Catastrophic failure is unlikely, but if you are downstream from a dam, you should know flood-zone information and have prepared an evacuation plan.

**Triangle of Life?** You may have received an email that seems to make sense, but unfortunately it actually has dangerous instructions and is promoted by someone whose credibility has been broadly questioned. Learn more at [www.earthquakecountry.org/dropcoverholdon](http://www.earthquakecountry.org/dropcoverholdon).

Adapted from *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country*, published by the Southern California Earthquake Center and available online at [www.earthquakecountry.org](http://www.earthquakecountry.org).

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