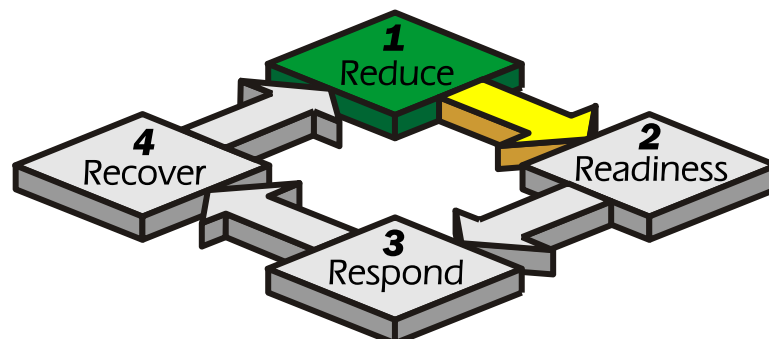


QuakeReady

Adelaide Eastern Region Earthquake Handbook

STEP ONE: REDUCING YOUR RISK



Be QuakeReady

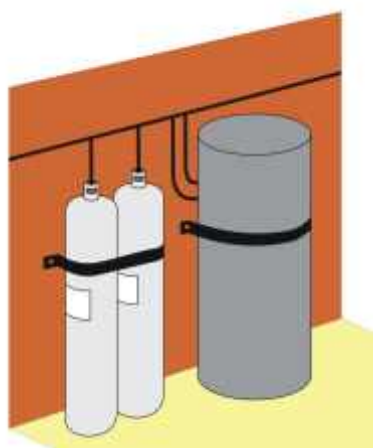
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Earthquakes are well documented as a cause of major disruption, damage, injury and potential loss of life. We have no control over when and where an earthquake will strike but we do have the potential to minimise the associated impacts.

Properties most at risk from damage and collapsing in the event of an earthquake include:

- Mud-brick, stone, old brick, unreinforced masonry and double brick structures
- Older buildings e.g. glass fronted retail stores and multi-storey buildings
- Modern buildings with underground car-parks
- Properties built on hill slopes, landfill development sites and loose wet sandy soil.

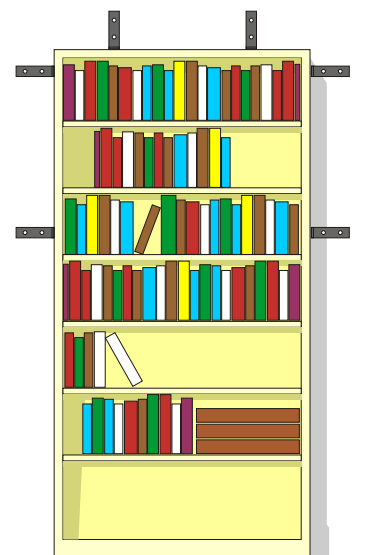
Structural repairs after an earthquake can be expensive and it is likely there will be a shortage of qualified trade's people. Experience from other earthquakes suggests that simple and inexpensive precautions should be considered to reduce damage from earthquakes.



REDUCING YOUR EARTHQUAKE RISKS

There are many things you can do to get to know about, and possibly reduce, your property's earthquake risk. By understanding what happens in an earthquake and what you need to do to protect yourself from injury, you can respond properly at the first sign of an earthquake.

Making an audit of your property, its fixtures, fittings and the safest places to be during an earthquake will reduce the potential earthquake impacts and assist in preparing insurance claims.



STEP ONE: REDUCING YOUR RISK



ABOUT EARTHQUAKES

Below is a table of the Modified Mercalli (MM) scale used to describe the range of damage an earthquake can cause.

There are more than 1,000 worldwide earthquake events each year. The vast majority do not register higher than MM IV on the Modified Mercalli scale and are rarely detected by normal human activity.

Modified Mercalli Scale	Level of Damage
I-IV Instrumental to Moderate	No Damage
V Rather Strong	Damage negligible. Small, unstable objects displaced or upset: some dishes and glassware broken.
VI Strong	Damage slight. Windows, dishes, glassware broken. Furniture moved or overturned. Weak plaster and masonry cracked.
VII Very Strong	Damage slight to moderate in well built structures; considerable in poorly built structures. Furniture and weak chimneys broken. Masonry damaged. Loose bricks, tiles, plaster and stones will fall.
EARTHQUAKE IS EXPECTED TO CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE AT MM VIII AND ABOVE	
VIII Destructive	Structural damage considerable, particularly to poorly built structures. Chimneys, monuments, towers, elevated tanks may fall. Frame houses moved. Trees damaged. Cracks in wet ground and steep slopes.
IX Ruinous	Structural damage severe; some will collapse. General damage to foundations. Serious damage to reservoirs. Underground pipes broken. Conspicuous cracks in ground; liquefaction.
NO EARTHQUAKES TO DATE IN AUSTRALIAN MAJOR POPULATION AREAS HAVE CAUSED DESTRUCTION AT MM X OR ABOVE	
X Disastrous	Most masonry and frame structures/foundations destroyed. Some well built wooden structures and bridges destroyed. Serious damage to dams, dikes and embankments. Sand and mud shifting on beaches and flat land.
XI Very Disastrous	Few or no masonry structures remain standing. Bridges destroyed. Broad fissures in ground. Underground pipelines completely out of service. Rails bent. Widespread earth slumps and landslides.
XII Catastrophic	Damage nearly total. Large rock masses displaced. Lines of sight and levels distorted.

PLANNING AHEAD

- Create and maintain a family disaster plan. Plan home escape routes.
- Make sure each member of your family knows what to do no matter where they are when an earthquake occurs. Ensure children practice moving to safe places and also practice taking cover under tables and holding onto the table legs. Guests, baby-sitters and care-givers should be informed of the plans.

PLANNING AHEAD (Cont.)

- Establish two meeting places where you can all reunite afterward. One right outside your home, in case of a sudden emergency, and one outside your neighbourhood in case you cannot return home or are asked to leave your neighbourhood.
- Practice the plan each year when the smoke alarm batteries are replaced.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month and replace batteries at least once a year in battery powered smoke alarms (every five years for mains powered alarms).
- Know where your gas, electric, and water main shut off valves are and how to turn them off. Have spanners stored near shut off valves
- Talk to your neighbours - how could they help you, or you help them, after an earthquake?
- Take a Red Cross first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training course or refresher course.
- Assess and action earthquake preparation for pets.
- Make and complete a checklist (use the Checklists available at the end of this handbook).

SUMMARY

- Understand the risks associated with an earthquake.
- Prepare ALL of your family.
- Prepare a Household Emergency Kit.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this handbook is intended as a guide only and is subject to change without prior notice. It is not a substitute for expert, technical or legal advice. Council accepts no risk or responsibility for any losses, damage, costs or other consequences whatsoever arising from the use of this information.