

QuakeReady

Adelaide Eastern Region Earthquake Handbook

CHECKLIST #1: Four steps to be QuakeReady

As part of preparing for an earthquake, consider every item on the list below. Implement as many points as possible now.

STEP 1: Reducing your earthquake risk

- Check with your Council about potential risks.
- Audit the property to determine the potential earthquake hazards.
- Prepare an Household Emergency Kit
- Discuss contingency plans with your family

STEP 2: Preparing People and Property

- Check your insurance policy for earthquake cover and purchase insurance if available and applicable. Take photographs of all your valuables.
- Assessment
 - Audit potential hazards on room to room basis, and take appropriate measures.
- Building
 - Assess mortar and brickwork for weaknesses
- Emergency planning
 - Prepare a list of important phone numbers.
 - Position emergency numbers in a readily accessible place.
 - Load emergency agency websites into the web browser of your computer.
- Discuss and agree on your evacuation plan which includes your pets and any neighbours requiring assistance.
- Ensure everyone knows what to do in an earthquake.
- Prepare an Emergency Household Kit .
- Complete your essential household information form

STEP 2: Preparing People and Property (cont.)

- Inside
 - Move valuables to a secure place.
 - Anchor or tie any large pieces of furniture to walls.
 - Remove mirrors or large light fittings from above beds
 - Move large boxes or items from high furniture.
- Outside
 - Check all water tanks and gas bottles are secured against walls.

STEP 3: Responding to the earthquake

- Evacuation
 - Take your Household Kit with you.
 - Turn off electricity, gas and water mains as you leave.
 - Lock windows and doors as you leave.
 - Consider your pets.
- Hazards
 - Inside: stay away from windows and find secure cover like a kitchen table
 - Outside: avoid falling debris, make sure you are in an open space.
 - On a hillside be aware of the dangers of falling trees, rocks and potential landslides
 - Stay clear of fallen power lines and electrical wires.

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STEP 4: Recovering from an earthquake

- For assistance phone your Council.
- All emergencies – phone 000 (mobiles 000 and 112).
- Contact government or community groups for assistance.
e.g. Families SA and Centrelink
- Hazards
- Be aware of risks following an earthquake to avoid injury.
- Only drive when you know that it is safe.
- Beware of power lines, fallen trees and water over the road.
- Use a torch until you are sure there is no gas inside the house.
- Inspect your home for structural damage before entering.
- Keep the power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
- Have an electrician test all electrical items prior to use.
- Do not use the toilet or tap until you have checked for sewerage and water pipe damage. If you suspect damage, call a plumber.
- Boil tap water (rolling boil of at least 3 minutes) until the water supply is declared safe.
- Test that smoke detectors are still working.
- Cleaning
- Clean affected property thoroughly.
- Contact your insurance company to discuss a claim.
- Photograph or video the damage in your house before cleaning up to assist your insurance claim.
- Throw away any spoilt or contaminated food.
- Salvage damaged items.
- Long-term changes to make around the house
- Take steps to reduce impacts next time.
- Consider earthquake implications when you are making improvements or additions to your home.
- Replenish your Household Kit and regularly update contact lists.