

When an Earthquake Strikes:

Where Will You Be? What Will You Do?

Drop, Cover, and Hold on. Washington is earthquake country. It's not a question of "if" but "when" an earthquake will strike us. Be sure to practice your earthquake skills on the third Thursday of each October during the Great Washington ShakeOut. More information at shakeout.org/Washington.

INDOORS

Drop onto your hands and knees, Cover your head and neck, and Hold on under something sturdy until shaking stops. If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows). Do not go outside during shaking! One of the most dangerous places to be is near an exterior wall of a building.

IN BED

Lie face down, Cover your head and neck with a pillow, and Hold on with both hands.

IN A CLASSROOM

Drop, Cover, and Hold on. Keep in mind that laboratories and other settings may require special safety considerations.

IN A WHEELCHAIR/ WITH A WALKER

Lock your wheels, Cover your head and neck, and Hold on until the shaking stops.

IN A HIGH-RISE

Drop, Cover, and Hold on. Once the shaking stops, if you evacuate the building, use stairs instead of elevators.

IN A STORE

Drop away from shelves, Cover next to a shopping cart or beneath clothing racks if possible, and Hold on.

OUTDOORS

Move to a clear area if you can safely do so (away from buildings, power lines, trees, signs, vehicles, and other hazards), then Drop, Cover, and Hold on.

DRIVING

Pull over, stop, and set the parking brake — avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until shaking stops.

NEAR A SHORELINE

As soon as shaking reduces such that you are able to stand, walk quickly to high ground or inland.

