

# Fact Sheet

# Earthquake

## After an Earthquake



Be prepared for additional earth movements called “aftershocks”. Although most of these are smaller than the main earthquake, some may be large enough to cause additional damage or bring down weakened structures.

Because other aftereffects can include fires, chemical spills, landslides, dam breaks and tidal waves, be sure to monitor your battery-operated radio or television for additional emergency information.

## Injuries

Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move injured or unconscious people unless they are in immediate danger from live electrical wires, flooding or other hazards. Internal injuries may not be evident, but may be serious or life-threatening. If someone has stopped breathing, call for medical or first aid assistance immediately and begin CPR if trained to do so. Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound. If trapped, try to attract attention to location.

## Checking Utilities

An earthquake may break gas, electrical, and water lines. If electric wiring is shorting out, shut off the electric current at the main box. If water pipes are damaged, shut off the supply at the main valve. If there is the smell of gas:

- § Open windows
- § Shut of the main gas valve
- § Do not turn any electrical appliances off or on
- § Go outside
- § Report the leak to the authorities
- § Do not re-enter the building until a utility official says it is safe to do so

## Other Precautions

- § Have chimneys inspected for cracks or damage and do not use the chimney until it has been inspected.
- § Check to see if sewage lines are intact before using bathrooms or plumbing
- § Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines, report electrical hazards to the authorities.
- § Immediately clean up spilled medicines, drugs, flammable liquids, and other potentially hazardous materials.
- § Stay off all telephones except to report an emergency.
- § Stay away from damaged areas. The presence of additional people could hamper relief efforts.

- § Cooperate fully with public safety officials. Respond to requests for volunteer assistance from police firefighters, emergency management officials, and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested.

## Evacuating the Home

If it is necessary to evacuate the home:

- § Post a message in a prearranged place known only to family members with relocation information.
- § Confine pets to the safest location possible and make sure they have plenty of food and water. Pets may be allowed in designated shelters.
- § Take vital documents (wills, insurance policies, etc.) emergency supplies, and extra medications.



***For more sources of information on this topic visit:***

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT [www.scchealth.co](http://www.scchealth.co)

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch)

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)