



Lesson Three

Now that you've learned how an earthquake occurs and that they can occur in Oklahoma, the next step is creating a Family Earthquake Plan. Think about each different place you might be during an earthquake: home, school, outdoors, in a vehicle, or at a friend or family member's house. What would you do in each of these places if an earthquake occurred?

Create a Family Earthquake Plan

Just like with tornadoes, house fires and winter weather, it is important to be prepared for an earthquake by making a plan for your family to stay safe during an earthquake.

Identify Safe Places Indoors and Outdoors

Think about each place you may be during the day: home, school, a friend or relative's house. Where would you be safest during an earthquake?

- Inside: Under sturdy furniture such as a heavy desk or table.
- Inside: Away from windows, mirrors, pictures, or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.
- Outside: In the open, away from buildings, trees, telephone and electrical lines, overpasses, or elevated highways.

Create an Earthquake Safety Kit

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Sturdy shoes
- Emergency food and water
- Manual can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Pet food or other supplies



Develop an Emergency Plan

- In case family members are separated from one another during an earthquake, develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.
- Hold occasional home earthquake drills in each room of your home to help learn how to stay safe during an earthquake.
- Conduct calm family discussions about earthquakes and other possible disasters. Avoid frightening disaster stories, but talk frankly and rationally about the possible consequences of catastrophic events.
- Check your home for earthquake hazards and talk to your family about creating a plan to secure items that may be dangerous if an earthquake occurred.

Discussion:

1. What things would you not be able to take with you if you had to leave your house in a hurry?
2. What things would you really need for your Earthquake Safety Kit?

Activity:

1. Prepare an Earthquake Safety Kit for the classroom.
2. Ask students to create a kit for their homes, either by drawing a kit with each item or by bringing the kit to class for show and tell.