

EARTHQUAKE

WHAT HAPPENS TO CAL POLY POMONA DURING THIS TIME?

- In the event of a major earthquake, key personnel designated by the University's Emergency Management Division will provide a basis for the conduct and coordination of emergency operations and the management of critical resources during emergencies.
- Plans have been made for all essential University functions to continue on a temporary basis. Personnel and facilities are designated to carry on operations on a limited basis. Alternate office facilities will be established, if necessary.
- Facilities Management and Campus Police, in coordination with the Environmental Health & Safety Department, will determine what buildings should be evacuated, what hazardous areas are to be avoided and what the safest routes of egress are from the buildings and campus. Any decision to evacuate will be made as soon as possible and activated by the use of available fire alarms, telephones or personal contact by designated key personnel or campus police.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST DANGERS?

- Falling objects: pictures, contents of cupboards and shelves, ceiling tiles and light fixtures. Furniture, file cabinets and bookshelves may also tip over.
- Swinging doors and broken windows.
- Possible fires from broken natural gas lines, electrical short circuits, or other utility failures.
- Spills or leaking containers containing radioactive or other hazardous materials.

DURING THE EARTHQUAKE

- Take cover underneath a desk or table. Protect your head and neck.
- Stay away from windows and objects which could fall on you.
- If indoors, stay where you are... Do not run outside. Falling debris may cause injury.
- Do not use elevators.
- If outdoors, stay in an open area. Do not enter the building.

WHAT IF YOU ARE IN AN ELEVATOR?

- If you are in an elevator, you are probably better protected than most people... the elevator will not fall down the shaft and nothing heavy can fall on you.
- If the power fails, the elevators will stop, and the lights will go off. Most elevators are equipped with emergency telephones inside the elevator car. All you need to do is open the phone door and speak calmly into the speaker. University Police will respond as quickly as possible and advise you how rescue will occur. During rescue, take directions from Emergency Personnel.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

- Be prepared for aftershocks. Building evacuation is not immediate. If evacuated, do not return to your office unless instructed to do so by emergency personnel. You may be safer inside. Evacuate only if directed to do so by emergency personnel or if a building alarm has been activated.
- Cal Poly, Pomona has specially trained personnel to conduct Search & Rescue operations. Do not attempt to move any victims unless directed to do so by emergency personnel.
- When you have returned to your area, replace telephone handsets that have been shaken off. Do not try to use the telephones except to report fires or medical emergencies. Even if they do still work, they will be needed for emergency communications. Your emergency personnel will keep you informed of what has happened and what you should do.
- Utilize battery operated radios or TVs to learn about what has happened, or go to Polycentric for campus updates.

PRACTICE:

DUCK, COVER & HOLD

EVACUATION OF DISABLED PERSONS

IF YOU ARE DISABLED:

- It is your responsibility to prepare for emergencies by learning the location of exits, stairwells, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers in each building you use frequently.
- Know how to help others help you. Give clear instructions as to your needs or preferences. Look for a Building Marshal, Floor Captain, or designated emergency personnel. Ask them to escort you to the nearest exit or to designate someone to assist you.
- If you are alone in a building, trip the fire alarm, if possible. Safe areas are exit corridors and stairwells. As a last resort, go to these areas if trapped above the first floor level, and continue to signal for help until rescued.
- If you cannot speak loudly, you should carry a whistle or have some other means for attracting attention.

HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS:

- Not all fire systems have a flashing light. Most are sound alarms. Therefore, persons with impaired hearing may not perceive emergency alarms and an alternative warning technique is required. Two methods of warning are:
- Writing a note telling what the emergency is and the nearest evacuation route.
- Turning the light switch on and off to gain attention, then indicate through gestures what is happening and what to do.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS:

Most visually impaired persons will be familiar with the immediate area they are in. In the event of an emergency, tell the person the nature of the emergency and offer to guide them by having the person take your elbow and escort them out. As you walk, tell the person where you are and advise of any obstacles. When you have reached safety, orient the person to where they are and ask if any further assistance is needed.

CRUTCHES, CANES, OR WALKERS:

- If the person is having difficulty exiting quickly, treat them as if injured for evacuation purposes.
- Carrying options include using a two-person, lock-arm position carry, or having the person sit in a sturdy chair, preferably with arms.

NON-AMBULATORY PERSONS (WHEELCHAIRS)

There are many considerations when moving a person in a wheelchair:

- Lifting a person with minimal ability to move may be dangerous to their well-being, but in a life threatening emergency it may be necessary to remove an individual from their wheelchair. Always consult with the person in the chair regarding how to best assist them. Assist as needed if removed from the wheelchair (i.e., whether they prefer a stretcher, chair with cushion pad, car seat, or if paramedic assistance is necessary). A number of people may be necessary for assistance.
- Non-ambulatory persons may have respiratory complications. Remove them from smoke or fumes immediately and determine their needs and preferences. Some people in wheelchairs may have electrical artificial respirators attached. Life support equipment may be attached. They should be given priority assistance if there is smoke/fumes present, as their ability to breathe is seriously in danger.
- Wheelchairs have many movable or weak parts which were not constructed to withstand the stress of lifting. You may have to remove the chair batteries.

