

## PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

### **PROCEDURE: EARTHQUAKE**

**Applies to:** All Personnel, Volunteers, Contractors, Tenants and Persons Served

Original Effective Date: January 26, 2002

Effective Date: January 23, 2023

Replaces Procedure Dated: April 10, 2014

### **Preparation**

1. Complete the biannual earthquake drill in the months of June and November.
2. Safe spots for earthquakes disaster will be identified in each service area. If **INDOORS**, stay there. Get under a desk, table, or inside corner. If **OUTDOORS**, get into an open area only if it is safe to do so. Do not run and avoid trees, buildings, walls, vehicles, and power lines.
3. Store heavy items on bottom shelves, secure hanging plants, remove unsecured mirrors and keep windows closed. Anything that can move, break, or fall is a potential hazard. Be aware of the possibility of falling glass.

### **During an Earthquake**

1. Stay calm. You must be able to help yourself and others.
2. If you are indoors, stay there. If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow or blanket. Otherwise, quickly get under a desk or table, and stay clear of windows or any object that could fall. Shield your head and face from falling glass and debris. Watch for falling objects. If the desk or table moves, move with it. Furniture can provide air space if the building collapses. If you cannot get under furniture, crouch in an inner corner. Be sure to lock the wheels of the wheelchairs. If you are in a kitchen, turn off stoves and quickly take cover. Do not run for another room.
3. Ride out the shaking. You may hear a roaring or rumbling sound that gradually grows louder, and you may feel a rolling sensation that starts out gently and quickly grows violent, or you may be jarred first by a violent jolt. Later you will feel the shaking and find it difficult to stand. The whole tremor will last only a short while. Injuries are not caused by the earthquake itself, but mainly by falling objects.
4. If you are outside, stay there. If possible, get into the open, away from buildings, trees, walls, and power lines if it is safe to do so. Do not run.
5. If you are in an automobile, pull to the side of the road and stop. Stay away from overpasses and power lines. Stay in your car until the shaking stops. Do not attempt to cross bridges or overpasses that may have been damaged in the quake. Do not approach downed power lines. If a power line falls on the vehicle, stay inside until a trained person arrives to remove the wire.

### **After the Earthquake**

1. Count to 60 before getting up, giving displaced objects time to settle. Check for injuries. Do not call 911 to report an earthquake unless there is anyone with serious injuries. Cover all injured with blankets and do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger.
2. If the home or building is severely damaged and unsafe to stay in, take your grab-and-go bag (if applicable) and move to the nearest safe area such as a parking lot or open area. Proceed to the predetermined staging areas (Evacuation and Society Closure policy and procedure). If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the gas valve and leave your home immediately.
3. If at one of the homes, and the home is safe to stay in, shelter-in-place and use the emergency kit.
4. Follow all directions from local authorities and first responder personnel.
5. Do not use the telephone. Keep the lines clear for emergency traffic.
6. Because of debris and broken glass, wear hard-soled shoes.
7. Turn on a radio in one of the vehicles for emergency information.
8. Do not go sightseeing. Keep the roads open for emergency vehicles.
9. Watch for fires.
10. Be prepared for aftershocks. Drop, cover, and hold on every time you feel one.

### **If you are injured or disabled**

1. Do anything to get attention.
2. Be aware that your regular exit may be blocked.