



**EH&S
FACT SHEET**
March 2005

**In the event of a major
earthquake**

**Be earthquake
prepared**

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EARTHQUAKE SAFETY



Southern California has the potential for a major earthquake at any time. Earthquakes may cause structural damage, injuries, and many emergencies on campus. Although University buildings are constructed to resist seismic shaking, falling objects inside buildings may be a significant hazard.

- **Drop, cover, and hold** to protect yourself from falling objects such as light fixtures or bookcases. Stay away from windows.
 - If outside, move away from structures, power poles, or other possible hazards. Stay in an open area.
 - Do not run for exits or attempt to leave the building during an earthquake.
 - When the shaking stops:
 - Check for injured people in the area;
 - Call for medical assistance, if needed;
 - Render first aid if required; and
 - Check the area for hazards such as building damage, fires, or gas leaks. Leave the building if it appears to be unsafe or ordered to do so by the authorities. Report any urgent problem.
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- Make your office, lab, or work area earthquake safe by securing tall bookcases and other large furnishings to prevent them from falling.
 - Keep exit routes clear.
 - It is recommended to maintain an office emergency kit to include:
 - Battery-operated radio and flashlight;
 - Well-stocked first aid kit; and
 - Potable water and food packets (replace items before their shelf life expires).

Use the EH&S Fact Sheets to facilitate safety discussions in your work area. Post the monthly topic on your bulletin board.