



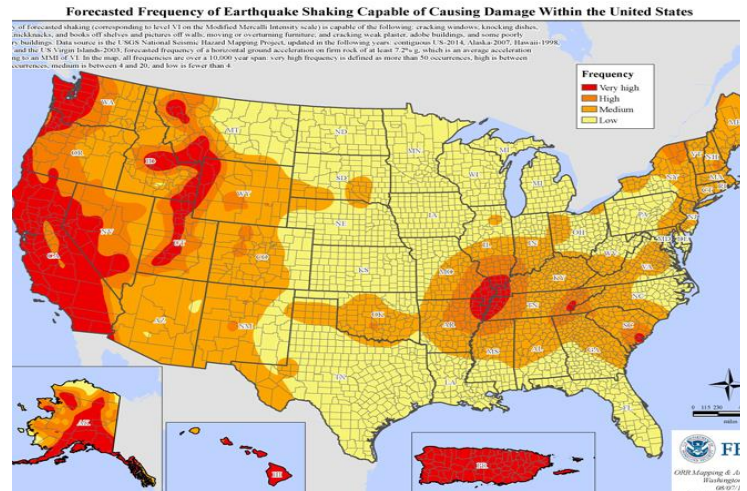
EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

2018

Earthquakes in Ohio? Rare but possible!

An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of subterranean rock as it releases strain that has accumulated over a long time. Additional earthquakes, called aftershocks, may follow the initial earthquake.

Earthquakes may cause household items to become dangerous projectiles, cause buildings to move off foundations or collapse, damage utilities, roads and structures such as bridges and dams, or cause fires and explosions. They may also trigger landslides, avalanches and tsunamis. It is important for you to be aware of what you can do to better prepare your family and community for an earthquake.

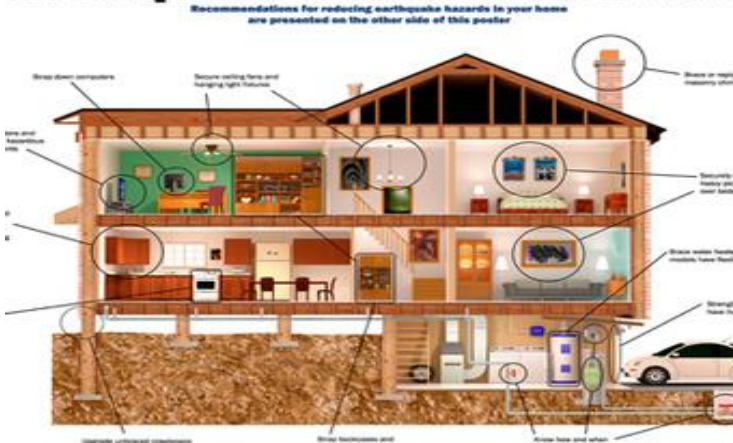


The picture above is a map that details the frequency of earthquakes around the United States. While Ohio is only in the medium to low frequency range, it is important to be prepared. You never know when one might strike!

Before an Earthquake

- Secure items that could fall/move and cause injuries or damage. Use flexible fasteners, such as nylon strips, closed hooks or relocate items away from furniture, to lower shelves, or cabinets with latched doors.
- Ensure plumbers have installed flexible connectors on all gas appliances.
- Consult a structural engineer to evaluate your home and ask about updates to strengthen areas that would be weak during an earthquake.
- Practice how to "DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON!" You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake.
- Store critical supplies and documents in a safe, easily accessible place.
- Plan how you will communicate with family members. If you are having difficulty identifying hazards in your home take a look at the image on the left. This is a step by step hazard hunt for your home to better help you identify your risks.

Earthquake Home Hazard Hunt



To see the poster, go to [fema.gov/media library/assets/documents/3261](https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/3261).

During an Earthquake

- Drop down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn't knock you down.
- Cover your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris.
- Hold on to any sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops.
- If there are no sturdy shelters nearby, crawl away from windows, next to an interior wall.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lights or furniture.
- If you are in bed stay there and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- If you are outdoors move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- If you are in a moving vehicle when you feel shaking, stop quickly and safely as possible and remain inside
- Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that the earthquake may have damaged.

After an Earthquake

- When the shaking stops, look around to evaluate your surroundings.
- If you have a clear and safe way to get out do so at this time.
- If you are trapped do not move.
- If you have a cell phone with you, use it to call or text for help.
- Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle to get the attention of others if you are trapped.
- Check yourself and the people surrounding you for injuries.
- Once safe, monitor local news reports via battery operated radio, TV, social media, and cell phone text alerts for emergency information and instructions.
- Use extra caution during post-disaster clean-up of buildings and debris.
- Do not attempt to remove heavy debris by yourself.
- Wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeve shirt, long pants, work gloves, and sturdy, thick-soled shoes during clean-up.
- Be prepared to "Drop, Cover, and Hold on" in the likely event of aftershocks.

Make a plan and practice! Make a plan today! Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it's important to know which [types of disasters](#) could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Go here to make your plan: [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)

Prepare pets for evacuation! Prepare your pets for emergencies. Learn more at [ready.gov/pets](https://www.ready.gov/pets).

Portage County EMA is committed to community preparedness!

Check out our resources on line:

EMA WEBSITE: co.portage.oh.us/homeland-security-emergency-management

PORTAGE PREPARES WEBPAGE: co.portage.oh.us/portage-prepares

Download the Portage County Emergency App for Phone and Android at the iPhone App Store and Google+.



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