

# SELF SUFFICIENCY IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



**EARTHQUAKE**

FEMA/Andrea Booher: FEMA News Photo

## BE PREPARED

- Conduct a review of possible structural or non-structural hazards in your home and undertake actions to lessen injuries and damage.
- Store water and non-perishable food ahead of time and in a safe place and have flashlights and extra batteries stored and easily accessible.
- Establish evacuation and communication plans for your family at home, school, or work when an earthquake strikes.
- Establish an emergency contact person outside your state as a means to reunite with your family.
- Become familiar with persons in your immediate neighborhood who may have special needs, are physically challenged, have hearing or vision impairments so that you may offer assistance in the aftermath.

## WHAT TO DO ...

Because the occurrence of earthquakes is relatively infrequent in Colorado and the historical earthquake record is short (only about 130 years), it is not possible to accurately estimate the timing or location of future dangerous earthquakes in Colorado. However, geologic studies indicate there are about 100 potentially active faults Colorado and more than 400 earthquake tremors of magnitude 2.5 or higher have occurred in Colorado since 1870.

### **DURING AN EARTHQUAKE**

**If indoors:** Take cover under a piece of heavy furniture or against an inside wall and hold on.

Stay inside. The most dangerous thing to do during the shaking of an earthquake is to try to leave the building because objects can fall on you.

**If outdoors:** Move into the open, away from buildings, street lights, and utility wires.

Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

**If in a moving vehicle:** Stop quickly and stay in the vehicle.

Move to a clear area away from buildings, trees, overpasses, or utility wires.

Once the shaking has stopped, proceed with caution. Avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged by the quake.

### **AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE**

Be prepared for aftershocks. They can cause additional damage and may bring weakened structures down. Aftershocks can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake.

Help injured or trapped persons. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in



immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.

Stay out of damaged buildings. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches or gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.

Open doors and cupboards cautiously.

## INSPECTING UTILITIES AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

**CHECK FOR GAS LEAKS** - If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home.

**LOOK FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FAILURE** - If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.

**CHECK FOR SEWAGE AND WATER LINE DAMAGE** - Check for sewage and water lines damage--If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap.