Earthquake

Earthquakes are sudden, violent shaking of the earth's crust. They are caused when the earth's tectonic plates move, rub, collide, or break apart. Earthquakes aren't predictable, so the best practice is to always be prepared.

Before an Earthquake

- Put large objects on low shelves and light objects on the top.
- Learn how to turn off water, gas, and electricity to the home.
- If possible, have walls, chimneys, shelves, and hanging items securely reinforced.
- Bolt the hot water heater, heavy bookcases or other furniture that could topple to studs in your wall.

During an Earthquake

- Get under a large, sturdy piece of furniture and hang onto it because you both can move during an earthquake.
- Cover your head with your arms.
- Be ready for aftershocks.
- If you are outside, stay away from power lines, tall buildings, or anything that could possibly fall on you.
- If you are in a vehicle, drive slowly to a clear location. Make sure nothing is around that could possibly fall on you, and remain in the vehicle.

After an Earthquake

- Check for injuries and care for those seriously injured.
- Listen to radio or television for further instructions.
- Put out small fires.
- Check home for damage.
- If you hear a hissing or gas leak noise, turn off main gas. Leave the house immediately.
- Do NOT re-enter the house if it has structural damage.

For more information on earthquake preparedness, visit the IDHS website at: www.in.gov/dhs.

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