

What to do During an Earthquake?

Since Thailand is not located in an earthquake-prone area, Thai people are not very familiar with the tremor due to earthquake. The nearest zone of active faults is located around 120 to 300km from Bangkok but their rate of seismic activity is rather low. In experienced in such disasters, most buildings and structures in the city were designed and constructed without consideration on seismic loading. As a result, to make people understand about the earthquake event, this article aims to illustrate what to do during an earthquake event.

If you are indoors, duck or drop down to the floor. Take cover under a table or other furniture. Hold on to it and be prepared to move with it. Hold the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move. Stay clear of windows or appliances that may fall over. Stay inside to avoid being injured by falling glass or building parts. If you are in a crowded area, take cover where you are. Stay calm and encourage others to do likewise. Do not use the elevator. Do not run downstairs or rush outside while the building is shaking or while there is danger of falling and hurting yourself or being hit by falling glass or debris.

If you are outside, get into the open, away from buildings, utility wires and trees. Hold your position until the shaking stops.

If you are in a moving vehicle, stop if it is safe, but stay inside the vehicle. Stay away from buildings, trees, bridges, overpasses, tunnels and utility wires. Hold your position until the shaking stops.

If you are in a mountainous area, or near unstable slopes or cliffs, be alert for falling rock and other debris that could be loosened by the tremor.

If you are at the beach, move quickly to higher ground or several hundred yards inland due to possibility of tsunami wave after the earthquake.

After an earthquake, it might be possible to feel aftershocks so you should move to safer place and should not go sightseeing to look at the damage that the earthquake caused. Listen to the radio for information and advice.

May 22, 2007