

EARTHQUAKE

POLICY

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to have a written plan which will be implemented in the event of an earthquake.

PROCEDURE

UNMC is in a moderate earthquake hazard zone. Earthquakes are caused by the underground seismic forces or the shifting of rock beneath the surface. They are unpredictable and may strike without warning. Earthquakes range in intensity from small tremors to severe shocks, and may last anywhere from a few seconds to as long as five minutes. Earthquake injuries usually result from falling debris rather than from the direct movement of the earth. Disruption of communication and power lines and sewer and water mains can be expected.

1. If an earthquake strikes when you are inside:
 - A. Stay inside. Watch out for falling plaster, light fixtures, glass, bookcases, etc. Stay away from windows and mirrors.
 - B. Either crawl under a table or desk, sit or stand against an inside wall away from windows, or stand in a strong inside doorway
 - C. Do not use open flames during the tremor
2. If an earthquake strikes when you are outside:
 - A. Avoid high buildings, walls, power poles, and other objects that may fall
 - B. Move to open areas away from hazards
 - C. If surrounded by buildings, seek shelter in the nearest strong one
3. If an earthquake strikes when you are in an automobile:
 - A. Stop in the nearest open area if possible
 - B. Stay in the vehicle
4. After the tremor is over:

- A. Check for injured people. Do not move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger.
 - B. If you think the building may have been damaged, evacuate. Aftershocks can level severely damaged buildings.
 - C. Do not use the telephone except to report an emergency. If a call is necessary, dial the campus emergency line, X9-5555 to report the emergency situation. Be sure to give your name, location, and extension.
 - D. Do not use plumbing or anything electrical (including elevators) until after the utility lines have been checked
 - E. Open doors carefully, watching for objects that may fall
 - F. Do not use matches or lighters. Watch for fires that may have started.
 - G. Keep streets clear for emergency vehicles
 - H. Be prepared for additional earthquake shocks
5. A damage assessment team will be formed by Facilities Management and Planning to inspect all damage from the earthquake and determine priority of repair work needed. The team will include the Director of Facilities Management and Planning and the Chancellor or their designees.
- A. If any building receives structural damage, evacuate the building until the "all clear" is given by the damage assessment team
 - B. Structural damage (area involved, type, and extent of damage) is reported by the manager on duty to Facilities Management and Planning by phone at X9-4050, if possible. If the telephone system is interrupted, a verbal message is taken by the department manager or designee to the Communications Center located in University Hospital, Room 2371.
6. The hospital external disaster plan will be activated if necessary