

Earthquake Actions for Healthcare Providers and Patients

Planning is paramount

- Have a plan for providing care following a significant earthquake. Make sure to consider:
 - Power, gas and water may be unavailable.
 - Communication may be limited.
 - Roads and sidewalks may be obstructed.
 - Security may be compromised.
- Plan for how you will accommodate employee, patient and service animal needs.
- Ensure employees and residents practice the correct earthquake action of “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” People who rely on wheelchairs or walkers should follow the steps of “Lock, Cover and Hold On” while staying seated.



Prepare and secure your space

- Ensure areas throughout your building have been secured, for example: filing cabinets and shelves are anchored to wall studs.
- Place emergency supplies (including first aid kits and printed plans) in accessible locations. Ensure staff are aware of the locations.



Additional suggestions

- Encourage employees to prepare at home. This ensures they'll be able to assist knowing their families are safe.
- Provide first aid and response training to all staff.
- Contact your local emergency program for community-specific natural disaster information.
- Practice “Drop, Cover, Hold On” drills. A great way to do this is registering for the Great British Columbia ShakeOut every October at www.shakeoutbc.ca
- For more information, and to download a copy of the PreparedBC guide for people with disabilities, visit www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC