

# Earthquakes



## Earthquake Fact Sheet

### Earthquakes can strike suddenly and without warning.

You may not realise it but Western Australia is rattled by an earthquake nearly every day. We don't feel every small tremor that happens, but the larger earthquakes are powerful enough to cause serious damage to buildings and roads, putting our community's safety at risk.

#### Before

- Know the safe spots to shelter – under a sturdy table or other heavy furniture.
- Involve your family in earthquake drills – drop, cover and hold on!
- Keep a list of important numbers such as family and emergency contacts.
- Prepare an emergency kit.

#### During

- DROP** to the ground.
- Take **COVER** under a sturdy table or other heavy furniture. If there is nothing to get under, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch alongside a bench or near an inside wall.
- HOLD ON** until the shaking stops.

#### After

- Expect aftershocks - these may not be as powerful but can cause further damage.
- Open cabinets carefully. Objects might have moved and could fall on you.
- If your home has been damaged, turn off electricity, gas and water. Check for gas or fuel leaks and damaged wiring. Do not light matches.
- If the power is out, unplug appliances and broken lights.
- When exiting a building check overhead for loose bricks or stonework that could fall.



### Stay Informed

Find real time information from Geoscience Australia:  
[earthquakes.ga.gov.au](http://earthquakes.ga.gov.au)

Listen to the local radio for information from authorities.

If significant damage has occurred, keep up to date via Emergency WA website: [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au)



DROP



COVER



HOLD ON

**For life threatening emergencies call 000**

If your home has been damaged and you need help call SES on 132 500



**For more information visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)**

or contact DFES Community Preparedness 9395 9816



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



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