READY HOUSE: EARTHQUAKE

QUICK REFERENCE • FRONT • CASCADIA READY RADIO

WHEN THE SHAKING STARTS

Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Get down, get under a sturdy table or against an inside wall away from windows, cover your head and neck, and hold on until the shaking stops. A doorway is not safer.

- **Indoors: stay inside.** Most injuries happen to people moving during shaking.
- **Outdoors:** move away from buildings, trees and power lines, then drop.
- **Driving:** pull over away from overpasses and lines; stay belted in.
- **Near the coast:** strong or long shaking (over 20 seconds) means walk to high ground as soon as it stops.

BEFORE: SECURE THE HOUSE

- **Strap the water heater.**
- **Anchor tall bookcases and dressers** to wall studs, and strap the fridge and TV.
- Most injuries come from **falling and tipping objects**, not the shaking itself.
- Keep **shoes and a flashlight by every bed**.
- Renters: anchoring furniture and learning the shutoffs are still yours to do.

THE GAS RULE

- Keep a **wrench at the gas meter**.
- Shut it off **only if you smell gas, hear hissing, or see damage**. Once it's off, the gas company has to turn it back on.
- **Smell gas?** Get out, leave the door open, don't touch light switches, and call from outside.

AFTER THE SHAKING

- **Expect aftershocks** for days or longer. Drop, Cover, and Hold On every time.
- Put on **sturdy shoes** before walking anywhere near broken glass.
- **Don't go back into a damaged building** until an inspector clears it.
- Use **texts**, not calls. They get through when calls won't.

From *The Ready House Bible* by Charlie Ramsey, Sections 11 & 15

TRAPPED, ALERTS & YOUR PLAN

READY HOUSE: EARTHQUAKE • BACK

IF YOU'RE TRAPPED

- **Text** rather than call.
- **Bang on a pipe or wall** to signal where you are.
- Cover your mouth against dust.
- Don't keep shouting. It wastes air and energy.

KNOW THESE

- Earthquakes **can't be predicted**. There's no warning window to rely on.
- Aftershocks can continue for **days to years**.
- On the West Coast, **ShakeAlert** can give seconds of warning: built into Android phones; on iPhone, use an app like MyShake.
- Check your area's risk on the **USGS hazard maps**.

YOUR FAMILY PLAN

- An **out-of-area contact** everyone checks in with. Long-distance calls often connect when local ones won't.
- **Two meeting places**: one near home, one outside the neighborhood.
- A **go-bag by the door** for each person.

DO THIS NOW

before you need it

TONIGHT

Test every smoke and CO alarm and write today's date by each one.

THIS WEEKEND

Strap the water heater and anchor the two tallest, heaviest pieces of furniture in the bedrooms.

WHEN YOU'RE READY

Walk every utility shutoff with everyone old enough to use them. Hang the gas wrench where everyone can find it.

EARTHQUAKE CHECKLIST

- ☐ Water heater strap
- ☐ Furniture anchors
- ☐ Fridge & TV straps
- ☐ Gas wrench at the meter
- ☐ Shoes & flashlight by each bed
- ☐ Go-bag per person
- ☐ Water: 14 gal per person
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Out-of-area contact card
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Battery or crank radio



Want the whole plan?

The Ready House Bible by Charlie Ramsey has the full plan, worksheets and checklists for every room of the house. Paperback and Kindle. General preparedness guidance. Always follow local officials and emergency managers.