

# 1 Earthquakes

12           There are many kinds of natural disasters that happen on Earth.  
22       There have been forest fires, floods, hurricanes, tornados, and severe  
32       droughts. Earthquakes are another kind of disaster that make the  
43       ground, and everything we build on it, shake. The shaking can  
55       sometimes go on for more than a minute. Most earthquakes are small  
66       and hardly noticeable, but others can be catastophic and deadly for  
77       thousands of people. Earthquakes in the United States are most likely  
87       to occur in western states, especially California. Depending on where  
101      we live, we need to be prepared for what disasters are more likely to  
105      happen in the future.

115           A big earthquake can make bridges and highways crumble. This  
127      means tons of concrete crashing to the ground. Parts of buildings, or  
140      entire buildings can fall. People can be hurt or killed by heavy things  
153      that fall away from high places. This is why students in school practice  
163      sheltering under tables during earthquake drills. Once the shaking is  
175      over, students and adults need to evacuate the buildings and go outside  
179      where it is safer.

191           At home, we need to know where to go if an earthquake happens.  
205   We need to know how to find our way around our home if the  
216   earthquake happens at night. We may need to navigate stairs. People  
230   should have a flashlight or cell phone with a light close to their bed.  
243   This way, people can be ready for an emergency, even in the dark. If a  
259   quake happens while we are in our house or apartment, it is a good idea  
272   to stand in a doorway during the shaking where there are stronger  
283   wooden beams above our heads and holding onto the door frame.

284           We should also have extra food and water at home in case we can't  
297   get out of the house or access help for many days. Hospitals and stores  
311   may be damaged and stay closed after a quake, inaccessible to the  
323   public. Police and firefighters, the people we often call 'first  
334   responders' will only be able to help the most severely injured.  
345   Everyone else will be on their own. In the cafeteria, schools keep  
358   several days worth of food and water needed for the large number of  
371   people there as a precaution. Students and adults who take medication  
383   daily should have an extra day's supply on hand. Earthquakes are part  
398   of life in California, but we can do our best to be prepared for them.