

All 50 states are at some risk of **EARTHQUAKES**

Large earthquakes in Arizona are rare, but not unheard of. Since 1850, Arizona has had more than 20 earthquakes with magnitudes of 5.0 or higher. The U.S. Geological Survey reports that the largest earthquake on record in Arizona measured 5.6 in July 1959.

Maricopa County rarely has earthquakes, but they do happen. Often earthquakes in other counties are felt here, like the 2015 earthquake in Yavapai County near Black Canyon City. Three earthquakes from magnitudes 3.2 to 4.1 were felt 45 miles away in Phoenix.

Magnitude

The amount of energy released during an earthquake. The Earthquake Scale ranges from 1 to 9. A magnitude of 7.0 indicates an extremely strong earthquake. Each whole number on the scale represents an increase of about 30 times more energy released than the previous whole number.

Information Zone

Follow these agencies on social media:

- Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- Arizona Emergency Information Network
- Arizona Geological Survey



Maricopa County

Emergency Management

5630 E. McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-273-1411
ready.maricopa.gov

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ARE YOU READY? EARTHQUAKES

Preparedness Starts with You!



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

Be Informed. Be Ready. Take Action.

Before & During Any Disaster or Large-Scale Emergency

- Monitor your television, portable radio, or cell phone for information and instructions.
- If you have been told to EVACUATE or SHELTER in your home, DO SO IMMEDIATELY. Secure your home. Remember your pets. Check on neighbors who may need special assistance. Follow all evacuation or shelter orders given by local authorities.
- Return home only when authorities say it's safe.

Before

Know Your Risk & Be Informed

- Visit www.azgs.az.gov to view an interactive map of faults in Arizona.

Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Develop and practice a **Disaster Plan** with your family to prepare for what to do, where to go, and how to communicate during any disaster.
- Prepare to evacuate by creating a **Go Bag** for each individual and pet. Consider including one in your vehicle and one at work.
- Prepare to stay in your home for up to 3 days (without electricity or running water) by creating an **Emergency Kit**.
- Visit ready.maricopa.gov and ein.az.gov to learn more about how to prepare for disasters.

Prepare Your Home

- Fasten shelves and heavy items to walls away from where people sit or sleep.
- Add latches to cabinets and store heavy items, breakable items, and flammable materials on bottom shelves.

During

Take Action Indoors

- Do not try to go outside. DROP to the floor. Take COVER under a sturdy desk/table or cover your head and neck with your arms next to an interior wall away from windows. HOLD ON. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are using a walker or wheelchair: LOCK it. COVER your head and neck with your arms. HOLD ON. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are in bed, cover your head and neck with a pillow. Stay there until the shaking stops.

Take Action Outdoors

- Do not try to go inside. Stay away from buildings, trees, utility wires, and gas lines. DROP to the ground. COVER your head and neck with your arms. Stay there until the shaking stops.

Take Action in a Vehicle

- Pull over as quickly and safely as possible. Avoid buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires. Do not get out of the vehicle. Stay there until the shaking stops.

After

Stay Safe, Healthy & Alert

- Expect aftershocks. When the shaking stops, determine if it is safe to move. Stay away from damaged areas.
- Help injured or trapped persons. If you are trapped, do not light a match or kick up dust. Cover your mouth and tap on a pipe or wall. Shout only as a last resort.
- Drive with caution. Anticipate traffic light outages and obstacles in the road. Report broken utility lines and damaged roadways/ railways to appropriate authorities as soon as possible.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Check your home for evidence of damage to utilities. If you suspect any damage or leaks, turn them off. If there is a gas leak, leave the area.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Look for and extinguish small fires.
- Open cabinets cautiously.
- Clean up any spills.
- If your home or property is damaged, take photos/videos of damage, list all damaged items, and contact your insurance agent to discuss claims.