

## RICHTER SCALE of earthquake energy:

Each level is **10** times stronger than the previous level

	Description	Occurrence	In Population	Movement
1	SMALL	DAILY	every minute	small
2	SMALL	DAILY	every hour	small
3	SMALL	DAILY	every day	small
4	SMALL	DAILY	every week	moderate sudden
5	MODERATE	MONTHLY	every 10 years	strong sudden
6	MODERATE	MONTHLY	every 30 years	strong sudden
7	MAJOR	MONTHLY	every 50 years	severe sudden
8	GREAT	YEARLY	every 100 years	very severe
9	GREAT	YEARLY	every 300 years	very severe
10	SUPER	RARELY	every 1000 years	extreme



# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY **115**

Firefighters are available 24/7  
for any assistance in case  
of fire and for rescue services

**Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service**  
14, Deschartres Street, Port Louis, Mauritius  
Tel.: 212 0214/15 | Fax: 208 3875 | Email: gfs@govmu.org



Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service



Earthquakes are not a frequent occurrence. However, they can be very disruptive because they occur suddenly and tend to affect large areas. Earthquakes can be a one-time event of a few seconds shaking or a series of events of varying duration.

Because earthquakes happen without warning, being prepared in advance is critical to minimize damages and loss.



# Preparedness and Precautions in the Event of an Earthquake

## Before the Earthquake

- Be prepared to act. Know how to act so your response is automatic. Identify safe places in your home, work place and/or school to 'Drop, Cover and Hold On.' Know at least two ways to exit the building safely after an earthquake.
- Stock up on emergency supplies. Keep the basics: flashlight, first-aid kit, whistle, gloves, goggles, blankets and tough shoes. Plan as if food and water may not be available for about 24 hours and other supplies for up to 3 days.
- Make sure that bookcases, large file cabinets and artwork are anchored. Store heavy objects on low shelves. Store breakable objects in cabinets with latches. Use normal work order process to get furniture anchored.

## During an Earthquake

- Remain calm as the quake occurs – others will respond to your actions. A cool head can prevent panic. If you are indoors when the shaking occurs, stay there. Move away from windows and unsecured tall furniture. Drop, cover and hold on under a desk, a table or along an interior wall. Protect your head, neck and face. Stay under cover until the shaking stops and debris settles.
- If you are outdoors, move to an open area away from falling hazards such as trees, power lines, and buildings. Drop to the ground and cover your head and neck.

## After an Earthquake

- Remain calm and reassuring. Check yourself and other for injuries. Do not move injured people unless they are in danger. Use your training to provide first aid, use fire extinguishers, and clean up spills. In laboratories, safely shut down processes when possible.
- Expect aftershocks. After large earthquakes, tremors and aftershocks can continue for days.
- Be ready to act without electricity or lights. Know how to move around your home/work area and how to exit in the dark. Know how to access and use your emergency supplies. Be aware of objects that have shifted during the quake.
- If you must leave a building, use extreme caution. Continually assess your surroundings and be on the lookout for falling debris and other hazards. Take your keys, personal items and emergency supplies with you if safe to do so. Do not re-enter damaged buildings until an all-clear is given.
- Use telephones only to report a life-threatening emergency. Cell and hard-line phone systems will be jammed. Text messages take less bandwidth and may go through when voice calls can't be made.

