



Earthquakes can cause other dangerous problems such as broken gas and electric lines. Do you know where the gas “shut-off” valve and master electrical switch are? Do you know how to turn them off? Do you have a wrench close to the gas meter if you need to turn off the gas?

Some houses can stand up to earthquake shaking better than others. In general, wood frame houses that are bolted to their foundations are damaged less than houses not bolted. Houses built after 1960 generally are bolted to their foundations. To find out when your house was built, call your local building department or the county assessor’s office.

To make sure that your house is bolted, ask a friend or a builder who knows what to look for.

Call your local Office of Emergency Services and ask for information on identifying earthquake hazards in your home and correcting them. They will also be able to tell you about your city’s emergency plan.

“I thought the sky  
fall down.”  
Chris, age 3  
October 17, 1989  
Earthquake