

# What you can do after an earthquake

Sometimes, large earthquakes are followed by smaller ones, called “aftershocks”. These can also cause damage, so be prepared to **duck and cover** again.

1. Check all children and adults for injuries. Treat minor injuries.
2. Check for damage(s):
  - ▼ If you smell gas, shut it off at the meter. Don't shut off the gas unless you smell it! If you shut off the gas, the gas company must turn it back on. It may take days or weeks before they are able to do so.
  - ▼ If electric wires are crackling inside, shut off the gas first, then turn off the master electrical switch.
  - ▼ If there is a small fire that can be put out with the fire extinguisher, do that. Otherwise, leave the house. Remember that you must protect the children and yourself!
3. Reassure the children. Tell them that their parents will come for them as soon as they can, that their parents know everyone will be safe with you, and that you are all together and everyone is fine.
4. If you think that the house and/or its contents are too damaged for the safety of you and the children, leave the house. If you must leave the area, place a note for the parents on the outside door, telling them where you are going.

