

EARTHQUAKE

Earthquakes are sudden movements or vibrations of the earth's crust which can be deadly.

They can occur as a result of:

1. Volcanic Activity or other subsurface earth movements.
2. Movement of molten rock below, or within the earth's, crust.

Earthquakes strike without warning. Identifying potential hazards, assessing possible risks due to these hazards and formulating a working plan in the event of such a disaster, can reduce the dangers of injury or loss of life.

BEFORE AN EARTHQUAKE

- Create and review a family emergency plan and keep a list of emergency numbers.
- Know where your electrical panel is. If you are not sure, contact your electrician.
- Know the safe spot in each room (under sturdy tables or under door frames).
- Bolt heavy furniture, water tanks, gas cylinders or storage units to walls or floor.
- Build your home so that it can safely withstand earthquake forces. Consult an expert such as a civil engineer or architect.
- Secure electrical equipment and appliances, emergency lighting, switches and control boxes.
- Check backup generators to ensure they are operable and that gas tanks, battery packs and gas lines are properly secured.

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE


- Stay under strong tables or doorways or in an approved safe place.
- Do not use elevators or stairs.
- Move away from heavy furniture, appliances, large glass panes and shelves holding heavy objects, as these items may fall, break and possibly injure you.
- If you are driving, stop at the side of the road, away from electricity poles, lines and trees. Remain in your vehicle as there may be falling debris, including energised power lines.
- If power lines fall on your vehicle do not attempt to get out. Remain inside your vehicle until the line is de-energised. The vehicle's tyres will protect you from electrocution.


AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE


- Ensure that it is safe to move from where you are and clear to walk. Listen for others calling for assistance.
- Check for injuries to yourself and others; render First Aid as required. Call for help if necessary.
- Get out of the building. Check if everyone is accounted for. If you are at work report to your supervisor or emergency wardens as required and follow their instructions. If at home, ensure that it is safe to re-enter your house. Before doing so, look for fallen power lines or broken poles. Also, check the electric point of entry to your home for sparking, broken or frayed wires or any other damages and report them to T&TEC.
- After ensuring that it is safe to re-enter your house, look out for fallen electrical appliances that may still be connected to an outlet. It may be necessary to open your electrical panel box and switch off your main breaker, before disconnecting appliances.
- If the walls to your home or any other structural components are damaged, it is possible that your electrical system may be damaged as well. Contact a qualified electrician for further assessment. In case of fire, call the Fire Service and T&TEC.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS YOU NEED TO KNOW

 If you receive an electrical shock, seek immediate medical attention.

 Never climb a T&TEC structure or enter a T&TEC installation; it is dangerous.

 Do not attach any items i.e. billboards, signs, etc. to utility poles and trees. This is illegal.

CALL T&TEC at:

HEAD OFFICE	623-2611 623-6274 623-6291
NORTHERN AREA OFFICE	623-5070 625-7531
EASTERN AREA OFFICE	643-2538 643-2510 643-2433
CENTRAL AREA OFFICE	636-8107 636-4871
SOUTHERN AREA OFFICE	657-7281 652-0817
POINT FORTIN AREA OFFICE	648-2791 648-2903
RIO CLARO AREA OFFICE	644-2475 644-2262
TOBAGO OFFICE	639-2541 639-2015
T&TEC HOTLINE NUMBER	800- TTEC (8832)
STREET LIGHTING DEPARTMENT	800-BULB (2852)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

POLICE	999/911 (Tobago) 639-1200
FIRE/AMBULANCE	990 (Tobago) 639-1000
EHS/EMS	811 653-4343 624-4343 (Tobago) 639-4444
COAST GUARDS	634-4440 634-4439
ODPM	640-1285 640-8905 640-8653 640-6493 800 ODPM(6376)
TEMA	(Tobago) 660-7489
CERT	(Speyside, Tobago) 660-6096
CALL CENTRE	(Tobago) 211

