

ALWAYS READY

NATURAL DISASTERS

Always Ready: Natural Disasters



Earthquakes

Major earthquakes are among the most unpredictable—and most rare—disasters and they can cause complete devastation. To prepare for an earthquake, try these tips based on recommendations from [Ready.gov/earthquakes](https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes).

What to do before an earthquake

- * If you're in an area where earthquakes occur, you might want to **purchase earthquake insurance**. Your regular insurance will not cover damage caused by an earthquake.
- * Consider **minimizing potential damage** with these structural tips:
 - ◆ Stock large and heavy objects on lower shelves in your walk-ins and dry storage areas. Don't hang heavy items over where people work and dine.
 - ◆ **Anchor large wall** units securely to walls.
 - ◆ Add bracing to suspended ceilings, if necessary.
 - ◆ Make sure windows, skylights and doors use **tempered glass** or have safety film applied on the interior side of the glass to reduce the chances of the glass shattering. Check for etching in the corner of the window that says "tempered" or "laminated."
 - ◆ Install **natural-gas lines** with **flexible connections** and an automatic shut-off valve. That way if the building shakes, the hoses can move with it, or gas flow will shut off if the hose rips loose.
 - ◆ Install **flexible supply lines** to toilets and **flexible couplings** on your fire-sprinkler system. Anything you can do to provide a little "give" to connections is smart.
 - ◆ Teach all your employees where **utility shut-offs** are located and how to shut them all off. Do drills. If the gas or water valves require a special wrench, make sure it's taped on site.

What to do during an earthquake (try these tips in practice drills)

- ◆ **Designate a place in your restaurant away from exterior walls, door frames, and windows** where employees and customers can shelter if they can't evacuate safely quickly. Corners tend to be more structurally sound.
- ◆ Train employees to **drop down, cover their heads** with their arms, and crawl beneath a sturdy piece of furniture (a desk, table or counter). Practice having them encourage guests to follow their lead.
- ◆ Train employees to **protect their heads, necks and vital organs**.
- ◆ If outdoors, instruct people to **move** into the most open place they can find, **away from buildings** (from which debris can drop), streetlights, and utility wires.
- ◆ **Don't use elevators**. Use stairways to leave a building if you must evacuate.
- ◆ Train employees how to **locate and use your fire extinguishers**. Teach them when it's safe and not safe to use them. (See Fire Extinguisher Safety Tips.)
- ◆ Wait for any immediate **aftershocks** before moving from shelter positions.
- ◆ **Don't use matches, candles, or any flame** to guide your way out. Cell phone flashlights are a good option.

What to do after an earthquake

- ◆ Check yourself and others for injuries. **Provide first aid** for anyone who needs it and try to get emergency help through 911. Otherwise, try not to use the phone unless it's an emergency.
- ◆ Expect **aftershocks**. Use your cell phone for news and updates.
- ◆ Take stock of your immediate surroundings; is it safe to move and evacuate?
- ◆ Indoors, **look for fire** or fire hazards, such as sparking equipment. If you can reach the fire extinguisher, or have a fire suppression blanket, and the fire is manageable, put it out. Fire is a major hazard, especially if there's a gas leak. **If you smell gas**, get out. Report it to the authorities when they arrive.
- ◆ If you have access to your building plan, offer it to authorities.
- ◆ **Be careful of broken glass and debris**. Make sure those trying to help have on sturdy shoes or boots.
- ◆ Be careful opening cupboards, storage area doors, closets and such—items may have shifted.
- ◆ If safe to do so, try to **put landlines on their receivers**. Off-the-hook phones tie up the network.
- ◆ **Shut off power** at the control box if it's safe to do it.
- ◆ If you can evacuate after the earthquake, remind your employees about your **planned meeting location**. Whether they meet there or not, ask everyone to check in with a designated person who will be at that location.
- ◆ Outdoors, be **cautious of downed power lines**, shifting/falling building materials, street and sidewalk hazards and other dangers.
- ◆ **Stay out of damaged buildings**.
- ◆ Put in calls to your insurance agent, a structural engineer and utility reps to determine when it's safe to begin recovery.
- ◆ If the power is out, but there is no other damage, **arrange to transfer cold foods** to a refrigerated truck.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY TIPS

According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), in addition to the fire suppression system built into your hood ventilation, it's recommended to have on hand a Class K portable fire extinguisher for fires involving grease, fats and oils.

Class Ks are formulated for kitchen oils, which burn at higher temps than industrial oils. Class A, B, and C extinguishers are recommended for nonkitchen fires (paper, wood, plastic, cloth, oils, gas, electrical, etc.)

Train ALL of your employees where extinguishers are located in your operation, how to use them and what to use them for. Keep Class K and Class ABC separate and clearly labeled.

According to multiple authorities, including NFPA and OSHA, you should never use water to extinguish flammable-liquid fires caused by grease, oil or solvents, or on electrical fires.

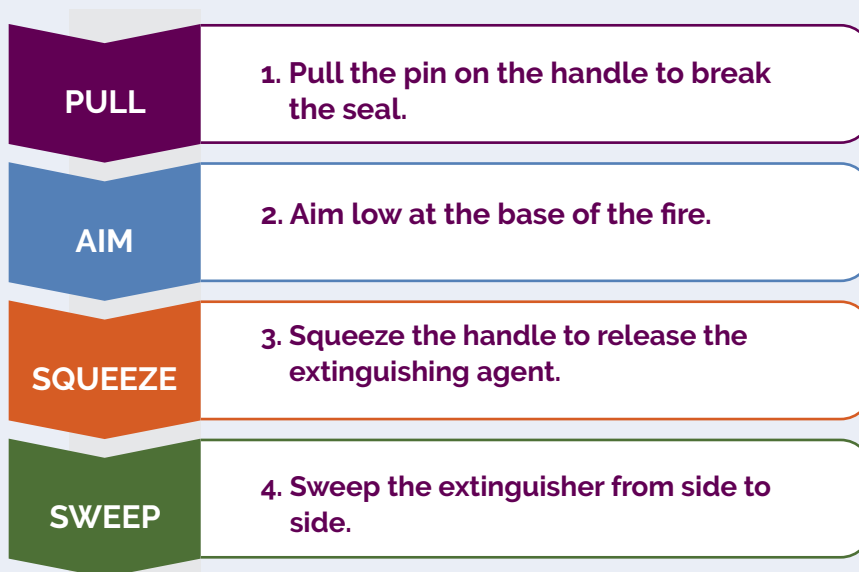
Water is useless in extinguishing these fires and can be dangerous. Tossing water on a grease fire can cause grease to splatter or explode into a larger fire. The same effect occurs if you try to use flour, sugar, or salt to extinguish a fire. Water on electrical fires can cause electrocution.

Instead, try to turn off the fuel source, cover the fire to cut off air and use the Class K extinguisher.

How to use a fire extinguisher

Identify an evacuation path before you approach the fire with the extinguisher. Don't let fire, heat or smoke come between you and the exit.

Use the P.A.S.S. technique (OSHA)



Evacuate immediately if the fire continues to grow.

Evacuate immediately when the extinguisher is empty and the fire is extinguished.

