THE GREAT SHAKE OUT

OVER ▶

October 16th | 10:16am

On January 26, 1700, a powerful magnitude 9 earthquake (similar to the 2011 Tohoku earthquake off the coast of Japan) shook the entire province and triggered a massive tsunami.

While earthquake hazards vary by location, the entire province is considered high risk in relation to the rest of Canada.

Being proactive can help you anticipate hazards and minimize risks, ultimately preparing you and your workplace for the worst when disaster strikes.

HOW TO GET READY

- **HAVE A PLAN**
- **CONDUCT A WORKPLACE EARTHQUAKE DRILL**
- **AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE**

BC **Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

THE GREAT SHAKE OUT
EARTHQUAKE DRILL

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HAVE A PLAN

Include earthquakes in your emergency response plan outlining how you'll respond, communicate and evacuate in the event of an earthquake. Particularly focus on what to do if people are separated and don't make it to the check-in or muster point.

Be sure to consider people who need extra help or visitors to the workplace and ensure you have updated emergency contact numbers for everyone in the workplace.

Earthquake Planning considerations:

- Evaluate your surroundings and determine how to minimize injuries and damage by doing a risk assessment.
- Establish priorities and coordinate roles and a communication chain.
- Take an inventory of equipment and update as required.
- Ensure emergency supplies and communication channels are readily available.
- Have an "After Plan" in place.
- Determine your closure and reopening plan (i.e equipment inspections, return to work procedures, etc.)

CONDUCT A WORKPLACE EARTHQUAKE DRILL

OHS Regulations require employers to conduct emergency drills. Conduct a "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill and follow these steps to be prepared when an earthquake strikes.

1. Determine the safe zones.
2. Practice by dropping to the ground, taking cover and/or covering your head and neck, and holding on to a sturdy object.
3. Wait until the "shaking stops" (allow a count of 60 to ensure shifting objects have had a chance to settle).
4. Cautiously move from your safe DROP, COVER and HOLD ON location.
5. If planned, get to your designated assembly area or follow your check in procedures.
6. Run through the steps listed in "After the Shaking Stops" based o your practice location.
7. If you are in a coastal area, consider a tsunami evacuation procudure as well and identify the safe ground location in your area and muster point.

AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

The event is likely to continue with aftershocks, tsunamis and other environmental hazards like landslides or floods.

- Be prepared for aftershocks by following the Drop, Cover and Hold procedures.
- Put your emergency response plan into action.
- Muster to a safe location and follow check-in procedures.
- Access emergency supplies and first aid equipment and tend to those requiring assistance.
- Follow directions from emergency officials and local authorities.
- Stay out of damaged buildings and away from unsafe areas.

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