

Earthquake (updated October 2024)

Before the Shaking:

1. Attach bookcases, cabinets, compressed gas cylinders, and furnishings to a wall or floor. Please contact facilities or put in a work order to secure items in work areas and offices.
2. Store all heavy items below head level.
3. Participate with the university in the statewide Great Shakeout each year (April).
4. Know the location of all possible exits in the area. Exit routes need to be cleared at all times.
5. Identify safe areas once a room or office is entered.
6. Identify hazards within your area. (e.g., large amounts of glass, objects on shelves, overhead items, wall hangings, etc.)
7. Consider an emergency kit in your office, car, and at home. Consider always having 16 ounces water and 1200 calories available to you.
8. Know if you are in an area where there are hazardous materials that could spill (chemistry labs, automotive, other areas) and know what procedures are in place when there is a spill. In general, if you smell something do not go towards it, get away from it.
9. Educate yourself. A good resource can be found at www.beready.utah.gov.

During the shaking: **DUCK, COVER,** and **HOLD ON!**

1. Protect your head, neck, and face.
2. Stay calm and avoid shouting and running around.
3. Stay away from windows that could shatter or large items that could fall on you.
4. *Indoors:* Stay inside. Evacuate only if you feel unsafe to stay inside. Take cover under a sturdy desk, table, or other furniture until the shaking stops. In a hallway, sit against the wall and protect your head with your arms. In an auditorium, duck between the rows of seats and protect your head.
Note: It is hard to move anywhere quickly during the shaking.
5. *Outside:* Debris falling from the outside of buildings can cause serious injury or death. Move to an open area away from buildings, trees, power lines, and other falling hazards. Once in the open, remain there until the shaking stops. Do not enter buildings until structural safety can be assessed.
6. *In a Vehicle:* Stop as quickly as safety permits. **DO NOT STOP NEXT TO BUILDINGS. DO NOT STOP ON OR UNDER POWER LINES, OVERPASSES, AND HEAVY OBJECTS.** Turn off the engine and remain in the vehicle. When tremors stop, proceed carefully, watching for falling objects, downed electrical wires, and broken or undermined roadways.
7. *In a Wheelchair:* Lock the wheels and cover your head.

After the shaking:

1. Assess the situation. Be prepared to seek shelter again. Aftershocks are usually less severe than the original shaking, but not always. Aftershocks have potential to cause additional damage or collapse weakened structures.
2. Check yourself and others for injuries. Provide basic first aid and assistance as your level of training allows.
3. Check for injured or physically limited people who might have trouble evacuating the building. Offer help only as your ability permits. Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Report the location of injured persons to emergency

personnel. Building Marshals (assigned to each building) have a radio they can utilize to communicate or send a runner to a designated location.

4. Use extreme caution and watch for falling debris while exiting the building
5. Exit the building in an orderly manner.
6. Use caution on stairways that may be obstructed or damaged.
7. Do not attempt to use elevators.
8. Use telephones ONLY to report life-threatening emergencies. Cell service may be limited; however, text messages are more likely to get through. Check www.uvu.info for additional information.
9. Know where to find fire extinguishers, AEDs (automated external defibrillator), evacuation devices (in buildings where one would have to descend a staircase to get out of the building). See www.uvu/emergencymanagement.
10. Consider a container or backpack with emergency supplies and first aid supplies in your area. Building Marshals/Floor Captains have some supplies.

University Response:

1. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated. Immediate action will be taken to respond to injured persons and to mitigate further property damage. They will determine campus closure, canceled classes and other immediate decisions. They will determine a schedule for meeting to continue response and recover actions.
2. Every effort to communicate will be used. www.uvu.info will periodically provide new information as it becomes available.
3. In general, the campus should evacuate as quickly as possible, injured located and assisted, and communication with campus community as possible.
4. Facilities personnel will shut down all utilities (power, water, gas, other) to decrease any chance of further damage (flooding, fires, explosions) until they can conduct building by building assessments. As possible they will restore utilities. They have a prioritized list of what buildings will have utilities restored.
5. Building marshals and floor captains, if available, will assist in evacuation efforts, reporting injuries, and accounting for employees as able. Other student groups can be utilized as they become available.
6. A campus facilities team will assess the structural damage as soon as possible (if possible 24-48 hours after) and provide further information and documentation. An assessment form will be completed, and a color-coded placard posted physically to the building indicating whether people can re-enter the building. All assessment forms will be given to Utah Division of Facilities Construction Management (DFCM) to assist with their continued assessments of the buildings.
7. Do not reenter a building without permission to do so.
8. UVU will work closely with city and county emergency management as it relates to response and recovery.
9. UVU has an agreement with the American Red Cross to provide a community shelter in a designated safe area. Those who are unable to get home or whose homes have been damaged may use this shelter.
10. Sometime after the earthquake and as possible, DFCM will conduct a more thorough assessment of the UVU buildings to determine repairs. Timing of this will depend upon availability, prioritization, and severity of the incident.