



Behavior during earthquakes

Earthquakes usually occur suddenly. Therefore, there is not enough time to get into a protective room. However, you can still protect yourself by immediately visiting the nearest, fairly safe place.

The Swiss Earth Service provides recommendations on the behavior of the population during and after an earthquake.

The following behavior is recommended during a quake or aftershock:

- In the interior of the building, try to find a place as quickly as possible to protect against falling parts. This is, for example, in door frames or under a solid table, desk or bed.
- Keep away from the exits for protection from falling masonry, plaster, glass and unsuitable fixtures.
- Outside of the building stay away from outer walls, at least half a building height. Go to open areas. Keep distance to buildings, bridges, electricity masts and tall trees.

After an earthquake or aftershocks, the Swiss earthquake service recommends:

- In case of damage to the building, leave the building calm and pay attention to the fire.
- Keep calm and determine if someone has been injured in the area. Provide first aid.
- Listen to the radio and follow the instructions of the competent authorities.
- Be aware of aftershocks, therefore protect yourself and injured persons. Aftershocks can sometimes be perceived as a loud bang.
- Beware of falling loose parts. Do not stay near outer walls.
- Check electricity, water and gas. In case of damage, close the main door or remove the main fuse.
- Check the building and the surrounding area for possible hazardous damage and fire. Distinguish fires and inform the police, the fire brigade or the responsible authority.
- Do not begin the cleanup immediately.
- Do not drive around with the car to view any damage. Extinguishing and rescue operations must not be interrupted.
- Do not use the mobile, as the network must be available to help and rescue services.