



# UBC's ShakeOut BC Fact Sheet

The University is participating in ShakeOut BC on October 20 at 10:20 a.m. and would like everyone on campus to practice "Drop, Cover and Hold" and learn what to do in the event of an earthquake. The Old Admin Building and Lasserre will demonstrate the evacuation drill. ShakeOut BC is the largest earthquake drill in Canadian History. Earlier this year, more than 470,000 people participated in the first ShakeOut BC. The drill will be on the third Thursday of October annually.

The recent magnitude 8.9 earthquake in Japan, magnitude 6.3 earthquake in New Zealand and magnitude 6.4 earthquake in British Columbia serve as reminders that earthquakes can happen anytime. In BC, minor earthquakes are not infrequent (1,200 are recorded each year in BC) and a major earthquake will eventually occur in Vancouver. Since the epicentre of a major earthquake will be to the west of Vancouver Island, UBC will not experience a tsunami.

## What does a major earthquake feel like?

Major earthquakes can last several minutes. The ground or floor will move violently. There will be shaking followed by a rolling motion, much like being at sea. You might see swaying buildings and hear a roaring sound. You may feel dizzy and be unable to walk. Unsecured objects could fall or slide across the floor.

## What to do during an earthquake if you are indoors:

### During the shaking

- DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON.
- Stay inside. Stay away from windows, shelves and heavy objects which may fall.
- DROP under heavy furniture such as a table, desk or any solid furniture.
- COVER your head and torso to prevent being hit by falling objects.
- HOLD ON to the object that you are under so that you remain covered and face away from the windows. Be prepared to move with the object until the shaking has finished.
- If you can't get under something strong, or if you are in a hallway, crouch against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms.

### After the shaking stops

- Count to 60 to allow debris to finish falling after the shaking stops.
- Assess your immediate surroundings for dangers.
- Proceed with evacuating the building.
  - Upon exiting the building, proceed directly to the designated assembly area.
  - Proceed to the designated Area of Refuge if you have difficulty negotiating the stairs or if you need assistance in evacuating.
- If an aftershock occurs during evacuation and you are still inside the building, repeat DROP, COVER, AND HOLD procedure before resuming evacuation.

## What to do during an earthquake if you are outdoors:

### During the shaking

- Stay outside.
- Go to an open area away from buildings. The most dangerous place is near exterior walls.
- Stay away from lamp posts, trees, overhead power lines and heavy overhead objects that may fall on you.
- If you are in a crowded area, take cover where you won't be trampled.

### After the shaking stops

- Count to 60 to allow debris to finish falling after the shaking stops.
- Assess your immediate surroundings for dangers (e.g. fallen wires).
- Proceed directly to the designated assembly area.

### If you are in a moving vehicle

- Pull over to a safe place where you are not blocking the road.
- Avoid bridges, overpasses, underpasses, buildings or anything that could collapse.
- Stop the car and stay inside.
- If you are on a bus, stay in your seat until the bus stops. Sit in a crouched position and protect your head from falling debris.

## What to do during an earthquake if you use a wheelchair:

- If you are able, seek shelter under a sturdy table or desk. Stay away from outer walls, windows and hanging objects.
- Try to get into an inside corner of the room (or an open area if you are outside), lock the wheels and cover your head with your arms.



# October 20, 10:20 a.m.