

Spotlight On Safety

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SEISMIC SAFETY



Earthquakes have occurred and will continue to occur in the Riverside area. This is of particular concern in UCR labs where the presence of hazardous materials, compressed gases, high voltage sources, etc., would pose serious hazards to individuals and buildings. In addition, the presence of expensive, difficult to replace equipment makes the need for evaluating the seismic anchoring needs of your lab or office critical. The following are safety measures to reduce personal injuries and property damage.

Campus Policies

- ✦ Secure all furnishings and equipment over 48 inches in height to a wall or floor in a manner to prevent falling during or after an earthquake
- ✦ Store large, heavy items below head level
- ✦ Secure all compressed gas cylinders individually to a solid structural member with a 3/16 inch welded chain or equivalent bracing. At least one chain must be used to secure each cylinder at 2/3 its height. C-clamp bench attachments and fiber/web strap attachments are not allowed. Any variations of these requirements must be approved by EH&S
- ✦ Chemical storage shelves must have lips or other restraining devices (e.g. wire or bungee cord along edge) installed to prevent chemicals from falling
- ✦ Incompatible chemicals must be segregated in labeled areas and in separate rigid secondary containment such as plastic tubs

Recommended Practices

- ✦ Anchor expensive equipment (e.g. electronics)
- ✦ Keep extra copies of irreplaceable files such as research data in a separate location
- ✦ Use flexible gas, water, and electrical connections for fume hoods and other equipment
- ✦ Store flammable materials behind latching doors, preferably in flammable storage cabinets in locations that are low to the floor

Reducing Injury Risks

- ✦ Stay calm, avoid windows and glass
- ✦ Find shelter under a table or door frame - Never attempt to exit building in an earthquake
- ✦ After the earthquake, secure the area, leave the room and close the door
- ✦ Use the stairs, not the elevator
- ✦ Proceed to the prearranged Emergency Assembly Area (EEA)
- ✦ Do not re-enter the building until official clearance has been given

If you are interested in more information, visit the USGS Southern California Earthquake Center web site at: www.scec.org/. To see what an earthquake looks like in a lab, watch the first few seconds of the video at www.eeri.org/cds_publications/catalog/video/kobe.html.

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions. If you want to get a seismic safety evaluation, call Physical Plant at 827-4590.