

## 8.5 Earthquake

Earthquakes strike suddenly, violently, and without warning. There is a likelihood of a large earthquake occurring in the Des Moines area and King County; however it is unknown when it will occur. Therefore, it is important to know safety precautions during an earthquake.

### 8.5.1 Earthquake if you are indoors:

- Take cover next to or under a heavy piece of furniture (such as a desk or table) or against an inside wall and hold on. Avoid areas where glass, mirrors, pictures, could shatter or where heavy bookcases or other furniture could fall. Do not stand in doorways, as they are not a reliable area for safety.
- Stay inside while the earthquake is occurring. Running outside increases the risk of being injured. When it is safe to do so, evacuate the building to an Evacuation Assembly Area.

### 8.5.2 Earthquake if you are outdoors:

- Move into the open – away from buildings, trees, light poles, and utility wires that could fall.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

**Expect aftershocks.** Although aftershocks can be smaller than the initial quake, they can cause additional damage and bring down weakened structures. Aftershocks can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the initial quake.

### 8.5.3 After the Earthquake:

- Be prepared for aftershocks, which can be as intense as the initial earthquake.
- Check for injured persons in your building or area. Do not move the injured individual unless there is serious danger to the person's safety.
- Remain calm and evacuate the building or area in an orderly manner.
- Do not use any open flames until you are certain there are no gas leaks. **NO SMOKING.**
- If you smell gas in your building, evacuate immediately and notify college officials.
- Stay away from fallen or damaged electric wires.

**IF ASKED TO EVACUATE, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLY.**



Follow evacuation procedures:

1. Walk – do not run – to the nearest exit, if you are indoors.
2. Take your personal belongings with you.
3. If you are on an upper floor, take the stairs. **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATORS.**
4. Assist any disabled or injured persons who are not able to leave the area quickly by themselves.
5. Evacuate to the outside of the buildings. Go to a pre-established Evacuation Assembly Area or away from buildings. (See Evacuation and Evacuation Map page --)
6. Notify the Emergency Operations Center if there are disabled or injured persons needing assistance.
7. Do not reenter the buildings until instructed that it is safe by the Emergency Response Team.

**The Emergency Operations Center will verify that Puget Sound Energy has been contacted.**