



OSHA ALERT

Protect Rescue Workers and Emergency Responders After an Earthquake

In the aftermath of an earthquake, workers can be exposed to safety and health hazards, including downed wires, toxic materials, fires, collapsed and unstable structures, falling objects, and slips, trips, and falls.

Help keep emergency response workers safe by following these precautions.

- Use personnel trained in rescue and cleanup operations.
- Do not touch downed overhead lines or objects that are in contact with downed power lines.
- Wear proper protective clothing, such as boots and gloves, when walking on or near debris.
- Use proper safety precautions when operating generators and power tools.
- Report structural, electrical, or gas-leak hazards to local authorities and utility companies.



Photo: USGS

OSHA's [Earthquake Preparedness and Response](#) webpage provides information on potential hazards and safety precautions, and offers a wide range of QuickCards and fact sheets on topics including [generator safety](#), [chainsaw safety](#), [carbon monoxide poisoning](#), and [working safely around downed electrical wires](#).

To report a workplace safety hazard, contact OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

OSHA alerts are issued on occasion to draw attention to worker safety and health issues and solutions.