



Frequently Asked Questions (2021)

What is the purpose of the ShakeOut drill?

The purpose of the drill is to increase awareness about the potential for earthquakes in BC, and to practice the correct response procedures.

How do I participate?

Wherever you are on October 21 at 10:21 a.m., practice Drop, Cover and Hold On and encourage those around you to do the same. It only takes 2 minutes. Visit the Great British Columbia ShakeOut website at www.shakeoutbc.ca/ for a handout and video illustrating the correct way to Drop, Cover and Hold On.

In a real earthquake, what do I do when the shaking starts?

Drop, Cover and Hold On. Watch for items that may move and injure you. Wait until the shaking has stopped before moving.

What if I'm outside?

Stay outside. Stay away from buildings, power lines, trees or other potential hazards. If the shaking is intense, crouch low to the ground until the shaking has stopped.

If you're in a car, pull over to the side of the road and put on the parking brake. Stay away from overpasses, power lines and bridges.

What if I use a wheelchair or electric scooter?

Lock the wheels, turn off the power and, if possible, cover your head and neck

with your arms. General information on emergency procedures for people with disabilities is available [here](#).

What should I do after I drop, cover and hold on?

After the shaking stops, look around you to see if furniture has moved, or ceiling materials have fallen. Check for signs of fire, major structural damage or hazardous materials spills. If possible, try to account for students, staff and visitors. If the earthquake was severe, and remaining indoors is not safe, evacuate the building being careful to watch for falling debris. Prepare for significant aftershocks.

What should I do if my building needs to be evacuated?

Do not pull the fire alarm unless there is a fire. Find your way to the closest or safest exit. Debris may prevent you from leaving the building through your usual exit. Do not use elevators – use stairwells. Help others who need assistance. Be cautious when exiting the building, as materials and glass may fall from the building exterior.

Once outside, make your way to the UVic Campus Assembly Area (playing fields) using safe routes. For information on campus evacuation procedures and a map showing the safe routes, holding areas and Campus Assembly Area see this [document](#).

Why not pull the fire alarm to get people out of the building?

The fire alarm should only be used if there is a fire. If your building needs to be evacuated, do this verbally and if possible use a whistle. Fire department resources will be limited and need to be directed to actual fires.

What if someone is injured or trapped?

If possible, treat minor injuries. If major injuries have occurred, call 911 and contact Campus Security by phone or by runner. Immediately report any

missing and potentially trapped individuals to Building or Floor Emergency Coordinators, or Campus Security.

If you are trapped by debris, protect your mouth, nose and eyes from dust. If you are bleeding, put pressure on the wound and elevate the injury. Signal for help with an emergency whistle or a cell phone, or knock loudly on solid pieces of the building. Rescue personnel will be listening for unusual or repeated sounds

Who will assess the safety of my building?

Facilities Management will respond to the earthquake by sending teams to assess the campus buildings. Do not re-enter a building until authorized by Facilities Management or Campus Security personnel.

How will the university respond?

The university will activate its Emergency Response Plan and use Building and Site Response Teams, the Emergency Operations Centre team and the Executive Policy Group to assess damage, identify needs, prioritize response activities and plan for recovery. UVic's top four response objectives are to provide for the safety and health of all responders, save lives, reduce suffering and protect public health.

Having timely and accurate information is critical to our response. The Building and Floor Emergency Coordinators are asked to complete, if possible, a Building Emergency Status form and fax or take the information to Campus Security. This form is available on line [here](#). Anyone with important information should report it immediately to Campus Security at 250-721-7599 or in person at the Campus Assembly Area.

The UVic Emergency Response Plan is available on this [webpage](#) (link found in Resources box on right)

How will the university communicate with the campus community?

The ability to communicate will depend on the level of damage to our communications infrastructure. During an emergency, UVic will use all available methods of communication to inform students, staff and faculty of the situation. Information will be available from the following sources as appropriate:

- UVic web site: www.uvic.ca
- UVic Emergency Alerts system: www.uvic.ca/alerts
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/universityofvictoria
- Twitter: @uvic

How can my family prepare for an earthquake?

Have a grab-and-go kit with survival items, personal needs, cash and an out-of-town contact card for each member of your family. Keep these kits near the door you will most likely exit. Also stockpile a minimum of one week of food and water for your family and your pets. Do not put heavy items above your desk or bed. Keep a flashlight ready, plus sturdy shoes/boots and work gloves. Grab and Go kits and emergency radios are available at the UVic Bookstore.

Visit the UVic Emergency Planning [webpage](#) for more detail.