

# FLASH

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protect your home

FLASH & TAKE



**FLASH**<sup>®</sup>  
FEDERAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOMES

# Earthquake

The majority of the United States is susceptible to an earthquake of some magnitude; not just the West coast. The central Mississippi Valley, parts of the East coast and the US Territories are also at risk. Below are steps you can take before an earthquake to protect your family and home today.

## Know Your Family's Risk

- Determine if your home is in a seismic zone by checking the current seismic hazard maps at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or calling your local building department or emergency management office.

## Know Your Home's Risk

- Secure a licensed contractor or structural engineer to perform an assessment of your home if you answer yes to any of the questions:
  - Was the home built before 1985?
  - Is the home built on a raised basement or crawl space foundation?
  - Is the home on a hillside?
  - Do you have occupied space above a garage?
- Check your local building department or emergency management office to determine if they provide seismic assessments or could recommend credible referrals to conduct a seismic assessment.

## Key Retrofit Activities

- Complete the following retrofit activities with a licensed, bonded and insured contractor:
  - Brace the "cripple walls" of wood framed crawl spaces by adding plywood or diagonal sheathing to the stud walls.
  - Connect the home to the foundation by properly installing anchor bolts and steel plate washers.
  - Brace the narrow wood frame walls around garage doors with plywood panels and/or steel straps.
  - Strengthen unreinforced masonry walls by bolting the walls to a new interior steel frame.

Protect your home in a **FLASH** with  
the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes!