



**EARTHQUAKE**  
INFORMATION



get  
**ready**  
QUEENSLAND

# FIVE STEPS TO GET READY FOR AN EARTHQUAKE

## STEP ONE - UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

### What is an earthquake?

**EARTHQUAKES** are the vibrations caused by rocks breaking under stress. The underground surface along which the rock breaks is called a fault plane. Depending on the size of the earthquake, strong and potentially destructive ground shaking may occur up to tens or even hundreds of kilometres from an earthquake epicentre.

Over the last sixty years there have been approximately 70 tremors measured and reported in the Rockhampton Region, although these tend to be very minor. The likelihood of an earthquake causing damage in the Rockhampton Region is possible although would be a rare occurrence.



### Earthquake damage and impact

The impact of earthquakes is dependent on their scale as outlined below. Earthquakes with magnitudes of less than 3.5 seldom cause damage.

Magnitude	Intensity and impact
2.5 or less	Usually not felt, but can be recorded by seismograph
2.6 to 5.4	Often felt, but only causes minor damage
5.5 to 6	Slight damage to buildings and other structures
6.1 to 6.9	May cause a lot of damage in very populated areas
7.0 to 7.9	Major earthquake, serious damage
8.0 or greater	Great earthquake, can destroy communities near the epicentre

Earthquakes can trigger secondary events such as landslides, tsunamis and fires caused by downed power lines and ruptured gas mains.

For more information on earthquakes refer to the [University of Queensland Seismological Observatory website](#).

## STEP TWO - MAKE A PLAN

Prepare your household emergency and evacuation plan to keep you and your family or household members connected and safe in the event you become separated during a natural disaster. For more information and to complete your plan online access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

## STEP THREE - PACK SUPPLIES

Pack your Emergency Kit with essential supplies in the case you are unable to leave your home for an extended period of time, and your Evacuation Kit if it becomes unsafe to remain and you need to leave your home. For more information and a checklist of supplies to pack in your kits access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

## STEP FOUR - PREPARE YOUR HOME

There is no better time than now to get your home prepared so you are ready in the unlikely event that an earthquake occurs. For more information on home maintenance and home preparations for a potential earthquake access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

## STEP FIVE - PROTECT YOUR PET

In emergency situations, pets are often the most vulnerable member of the family. It's important to consider what will happen to our pets in the event of a natural disaster. For more information on protecting your pet during the unlikely event of an earthquake, including supplies needed for your Pet Emergency Kit, access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).



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