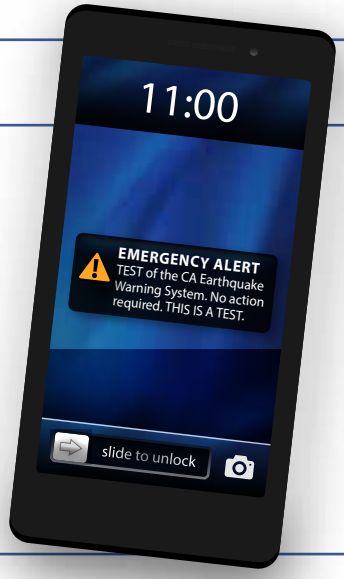
CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM **Fact Sheet**

What is it?

Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) detects an earthquake that's already started. When an earthquake begins, ground motion sensors detect and gather information rapidly to allow the system to estimate the potential size and location of the earthquake. The system will then send out an alert if the earthquake is potentially harmful, letting you know that shaking is about to arrive at your general location. The alert will be called a ShakeAlert.

The system could give you **up to ten seconds or more** of warning so that you can protect yourself before you feel shaking. If you get an alert you should act quickly to protect yourself. Do not wait to feel the shaking.



Frequently Asked Questions

How will I receive an alert?

Initially, the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system will deliver the alerts. This system is already enabled on most cell phones for weather emergencies and AMBER Alerts. Warnings will also come through the MyShake mobile application, along with information about previous earthquakes and tips for preparedness.

Will I always receive an alert before shaking arrives at my location?

No. If you're too close to the center of the earthquake, an alert will not arrive before shaking begins because time is needed to detect that earthquake and distribute the alert.

What to do when an alert is received or shaking is felt:

DROP where you are, onto your hands and knees.
COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand.

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter
- If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows)
- Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs

HOLD ON until shaking stops

More ways to protect yourself in a variety of situations:
EarthquakeCountry.org/step5

By the way

- This is not earthquake prediction.
- People may receive an alert before, during, or after shaking arrives at their locations.
- In rare circumstances, people may receive an alert when there was no earthquake.
- The system will improve over time.

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California Department of Conservation
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For more information please visit
www.earthquake.ca.gov