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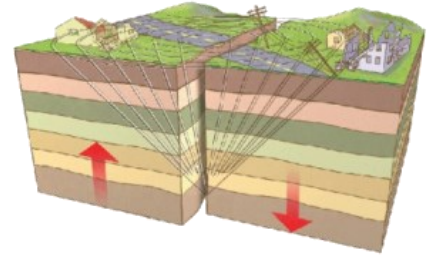


# Earthquakes



Earthquakes are the shaking, rolling or sudden shock of the earth's surface. Earthquakes happen along cracks (called fault lines) in the earth's surface. Earthquakes can be felt over large areas, although they usually last less than one minute. Earthquakes cannot be predicted — although scientists are working on it!

All 50 states and 5 U.S. territories are at some risk for earthquakes. Earthquakes can happen at any time of the year. Earthquakes can cause extensive damage, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and countless injuries and death.



Therefore, it is recommended that when there is a ground movement, that everyone take precaution. Drop to the ground. Take shelter under a sturdy table or other heavy furniture. If you can not shelter under anything, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch near an interior wall. Wait until the shaking is over. (www.ready.gov)

## Answer the Questions

1. What are earthquakes?

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2. How long do earthquakes usually last?

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3. Where can an earthquake occur?

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4. What should you do if there is an earthquake?

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