

# **BATHGATE PARK EARTHQUAKE PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES**

**Reviewed Jan 2025 using: Govt. – Get Thru Advice**

## **Guidelines**

### Before an Earthquake

Getting ready before an earthquake strikes will help reduce damage to our school and help us survive. To ensure we are as prepared as possible, **Bathgate Park will have an Earthquake Drill practise each term.**

In preparedness for this:

- a) Identify safe places within the classroom / school. Somewhere close to you, no more than a few steps away, to avoid injury from flying debris.

A safe place could be:

- Under a strong table = Hold on to the table legs to keep it from moving away from you.
- Next to an interior wall away from windows
- Away from tall furniture that could fall down
- In doorways of older buildings NB: modern buildings doorways are no stronger than any other parts of the structure.

- b) Practice DROP, COVER, HOLD



- c) Practise evacuating to the assembly point and following the evacuation procedure.
  - Class role taken
  - Support staff / visitors accounted for.
  - A runner from each class is sent to flag pole to report all present and accounted for.
  - Wait for further instructions.
  - Remain calm and calm those around you. REASSURE.

### **DURING an Earthquake**

In the event of an earthquake you should act immediately & children should be instructed to:

If inside:

#### **Stop, Drop and Hold**

- Stay inside
- Drop to their knees
- Get under a table, hold onto it to prevent it moving away from you
- Crouch beside a solid structure. It may well be a wall.
- Keep away from glass doors or windows.
- Brace yourself in a doorway. Hold onto the door to prevent it slamming into you.
- Do not attempt to run outside – you may be hit by falling masonry or glass.

**Stay inside until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. The school bell will be rung 3x to indicate that an evacuation is needed. The adult in the room will make the call that it is safe to proceed with an evacuation. YOU DO NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR THE BELL TO GO BEFORE YOU EVACUATE.**

If Outside:

DROP, COVER, HOLD - use hands to protect head; take cover in nearby clear spaces.

Do not run into the street – you may be struck by falling debris or power lines.

Stay clear of windows, high walls or power lines.

**Assemble at evacuation areas and await for adult assistance.**

After an Earthquake

- Listen to your local radio stations as emergency management officials will be broadcasting the most appropriate advice for your community and situation.
- Expect to feel aftershocks. Each time you feel an earthquake shaking, Drop, Cover and Hold. More shaking can happen following an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injuries and get first aid if necessary. Help others if you can.
- Class adult to take GO EMERGENCY BACKPACK for follow up requirements.
- Be aware that electricity supply could be cut, and fire alarms and sprinkler systems can go off in buildings during an earthquake even if there is no fire. Check for, and extinguish, small fires.
- Do not run outside. It is frightening to stay in a building immediately after an earthquake, but it is much safer than going outside. An earthquake is not like a fire. You do not have to evacuate a building straight away unless it is showing obvious signs of distress or you are in a tsunami evacuation zone.
- If you are in a damaged building, try to get outside and find a safe, open place.
- Watch out for broken glass, fallen power lines or broken gas lines, and stay out of damaged areas.
- Only use the phone for short essential calls to keep the lines clear for emergency calls. Use social media or text messages instead of calling to keep phone lines clear for emergency calls.
- If you see sparks, broken wires or evidence of electrical system damage, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box if it is safe to do so.

Once clear, normal evacuation check in procedures will be followed.