

These scenarios are designed to stimulate conversations within organisations and networks of what may need to be considered in a variety of different emergency situations. Please feel welcome to use these scenarios in staff meetings or emergency planning workshops to increase awareness of organisational procedures and potentially identify gaps in planning.

For further information and advice please contact your local emergency planning committee through your council or local emergency services.

Practice Scenario: Earthquake

Wednesday

10:07am: A very large earthquake occurs, rumbling through the region for over a minute. Sections of the ceiling tiles collapse, fixtures have come loose in your workplace and damage is visible in all areas of town. Electricity has been cut.

10:12am: A quick assessment of your workplace shows moderate damage and that some staff and visitors have been injured. Both landlines and mobiles are jammed as people try to contact loved ones and emergency services. Your employees are concerned about their families but can't get in contact with schools/ home.

10:34am: Media reports a 6.7 magnitude earthquake has occurred in the region. Extensive damage to roads and buildings is reported with emergency services strongly recommending people not drive due to unsafe roadways. Phone calls are able to be made sporadically and text messages are going through. There is no power or water to your facility.

10:40am: Many staff want to leave to be with their families- *who are your essential staff in this scenario?*

3:23pm: A small aftershock lasting 10 seconds rocks your area causing loose items to fall but no further significant damage. This causes anxiousness for many people around you.

Thursday

8:00am: No power or water yet at your workplace. You continue to clean up the interior and exterior of your site to ensure safe access. Damage to your building is only cosmetic, but you have heard of other agencies that will likely be closed for weeks to repair structural damages. You alert your staff to the possibility of an increase in calls for support with other agencies out of action for the foreseeable future.

2:00pm: Limited power has been restored in your area but you still have no water. Bottled water is being distributed by government agencies. There are a number of roads that are inaccessible due to damage with detours established. This is causing significant delays with journeys taking 2-3 times longer than usual. You have many clients that fail to show up to their scheduled appointments as they are unable to get to you. You also have a number of walk-ins that don't usually access your branch but they are unable to attend their regular service so have come to you for help instead. *How will you screen these clients, access and manage their records?*

Sunday:

11:00am: Full power and water have been restored to your facility.

Monday:

9:30am: The Manager of another one of the agencies that is still closed has suggested drawing up an MOU to allow some of their key services and staff to

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operate from your workplace whilst their building undergoes repairs. You will need to consider the additional space requirements and confidentiality issues between agencies.

For your workplace, consider the following:

- Does your workplace have easily accessible first aid supplies to manage injuries?
- Does your workplace have easily accessible torches and other safety equipment?
- What advice and duties will you be giving your staff?
- What (if any) messages will you be communicating to your clients/ customers/ community members and when?
- How will the damage to your facility, a lack of power and water alter operations? What services will be essential to maintain? Are there any that will be delayed or cancelled?

In the case of an Earthquake, remember:

- DROP, COVER and HOLD. Drop to the ground under a table or next to an internal wall if possible, and away from windows or anything that could fall on you. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold onto a stable item or brace against a wall until the shaking stops and exit when it is safe to do so.
- Expect aftershocks. DROP, COVER and HOLD every time.
- Check for injuries and damage. Apply first aid where required and turn off electricity and gas at the mains if there appears to be damage.
- Follow your emergency plans. Try to avoid driving unless an emergency and avoid unnecessary phone calls which can cause jamming- text instead.

You may need to relocate if your house/ workplace is unsafe after



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