

Statement Regarding Earthquake Safety Recommendations

The National Disaster Education Coalition would like to assure those responsible for and concerned with earthquake safety in the United States that our message, “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” is frequently reviewed and is correct and accurate for the types of buildings and construction methods in the United States. This message applies to people in buildings (homes and businesses.) It does not apply to people in or on structures other than buildings, such as elevated roadways and bridges, or who are in confined spaces such as tunnels.

The safety recommendation “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” was developed from information gathered and analyzed directly from previous earthquakes that occurred within the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. The type of analyses performed included components such as examination of the type of structures and damaged incurred, previous and current construction methods, reasons for human injury, as well as comparative assessments with earthquakes and their respective damages. Our confidence in the message “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” is the result of the assimilation of knowledge derived from extensive analysis performed by various organizations that have conducted or reviewed seismological, architectural, and engineering research, each focused in their respective area of expertise.

The National Disaster Education Coalition is aware of alternate recommendations, such as “Triangle of Life”. Experts from various organizations have reviewed those alternate recommendations. For the reasons stated above, we find that the earthquake safety recommendation “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” remains appropriate for use in the United States.