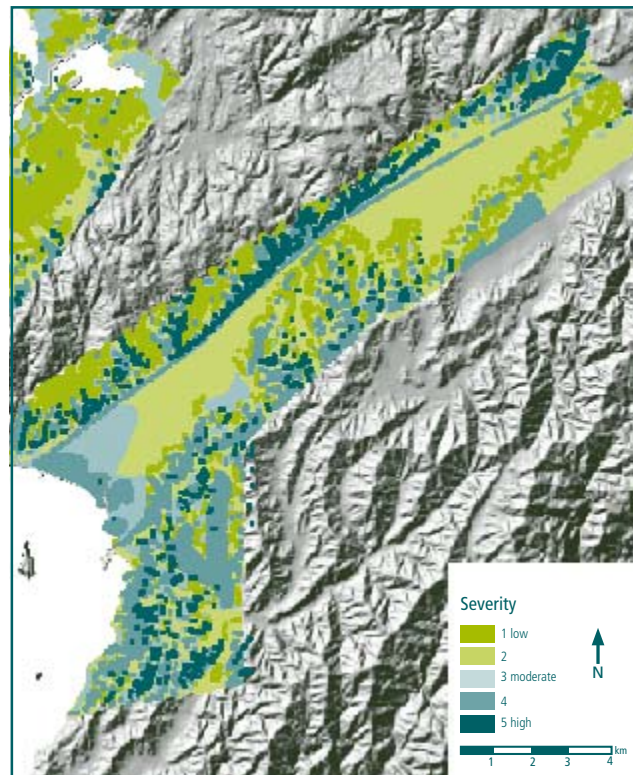


# Earthquake Hazard - Hutt Valley

This fact sheet contains information about earthquake hazards in the Hutt Valley and advice on what you can do to be prepared.

Many of the Wellington Region's faults can produce large earthquakes. A large, shallow quake along the Wellington Fault, say magnitude 7.4, could cause about 140 deaths and 890 injuries in the Hutt Valley if it hit during daytime. If the quake struck at night, fewer people would be hurt. It could cost around \$1 billion to repair and rebuild damaged buildings in the valley.



The earthquake hazard map shows the different effects of an earthquake:

- The bigger the earthquake, the stronger the **ground shaking**. Furniture can fall over, pictures can fall off walls, and buildings can suffer a lot of damage.
- Roads, water mains, gas lines, power cables and buildings crossing a faultline might buckle or break when a **fault ruptures**.
- Earthquake-triggered **landslides** can damage or destroy buildings in their paths. The extent of landslides depends on the strength and duration of ground shaking, how steep the hillslopes are, and the strength of the underlying soil or rocks.
- **Liquefaction** can occur along flat coastal areas or reclaimed land where the ground is poorly compacted. The ground behaves like a liquid and buildings can sink, tilt or topple over.
- An undersea earthquake can cause a **tsunami** that can wash over low-lying areas.

The map uses colour codes to show the relative level of hazard to areas within the Hutt Valley.

# What should you do in an earthquake?

If you are **indoors**:

- Take cover under a table or brace yourself in a doorway.
- If the table you are under moves, hold onto it and move with it.
- In a high rise building move against an interior wall if there is no other cover.
- Stay under cover until the shaking stops.

If you are **outside**:

- In a high rise area move to a doorway to avoid falling glass and debris.
- Move to a clear area away from trees, signs, buildings and overhead cables.
- If you are driving, slow down, pull over and stop. Stay in your vehicle.



## Be prepared

You need to be able to look after yourself for at least three days. Keep survival supplies:

- Water
- Food (canned or dried)
- Battery operated radio
- First aid kit
- A torch or cyalume sticks
- Blankets and warm clothing
- BBQ or gas cooker
- Pet supplies
- Baby supplies
- Essential medications



## You must store emergency water

- Use clean soft drink bottles, not milk bottles.
- Fill until overflowing from the cold tap.
- Change water every 12 months.
- You need three litres per day for every person for basic survival.
- Store extra water for cooking and hygiene. This could be 15-20L per person a day.
- Store enough water for at least three days.

## Further Reading

Davey, R.A. and Shephard, R. B. 1995. *Earthquake Risk Assessment Study. Study Area 2- Hutt Valley*. Wellington: Works Consultancy Services and Wellington Regional Council. View at the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

[www.gw.govt.nz/em/hazard.htm](http://www.gw.govt.nz/em/hazard.htm)

For more information, check the Yellow Pages or contact a civil defence emergency management advisor at your local council.

### CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

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