



Kingman County Commission

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Did you feel the quake?

Harper County earthquakes raise preparedness, insurance questions

A 4.4 magnitude earthquake on Oct. 2 in Harper County was felt by many Kingman County residents. It was centered between the cities of Harper and Anthony and occurred shortly after 1 p.m.

Harper County has experienced at least 60 earthquakes of varying strengths already this year. The Oct. 2 quake was the strongest so far. Some citizens have asked what to do if an earthquake happens again and is stronger than the last one. Ready.gov and the Earthquake Center recommend that you **DROP! COVER! & HOLD ON!**

DROP immediately to the ground or floor. The shaking could become violent enough to knock you down.

Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table. Cover your head with one hand or arm if you can. If you are outside, move away from buildings, trees and power lines. Get into an open space and crouch down. Cover your head and neck with your hands and arms. If you are inside a building, **DO NOT** run outside. You could be injured by breaking and falling glass and debris from the outer wall of the building.

HOLD ON to something sturdy until the shaking stops. If you are under a piece of furniture, be prepared to move with it.

Kingman County Emergency Manager Fred Simon offered the following additional information. After the shaking stops, be careful of broken glass and downed power lines. Power lines should always be treated as if they were energized. Check for broken gas lines and leave the area immediately if you suspect a leak that cannot be shut off. Water and sewer lines also may be broken and present a hazard.

Care should be used when opening cabinets and closets, as things may have shifted and could fall out as the door is opened. Aftershocks can always be a possibility after any quake and may vary in strength and duration.

If you are in a vehicle, pull over and stop in a safe place. Do not stop on a bridge, overpass or under a structure that could collapse. After the quake, proceed cautiously – the roadway or bridges may have been damaged.

There are several things you can do to prepare for an earthquake, he said. Secure top heavy objects in your home so they do not fall. Move heavy objects off top shelves. Have a plan and a disaster kit.

Insuring your home may also be an option to consider. Simon said a check with local insurance companies indicated that earthquake insurance on a \$100,000 home would run about \$30 a year with a deductible of 2-5 percent of the value of the home. The construction of the home may also cause an increase in the cost of the premium. However, some area companies have already put a halt on earthquake policies due to the activity in the area. Check with your company.

For more information on earthquake safety and how to plan for it, go to dropcoverholdon.org or ready.gov.

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