Learning about Earthquakes and Protection Measures

Tourist information

O.A.S.P.
Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization

www.oasp.gr

Earthquakes are a natural phenomenon

Earthquakes often occur all around the world. Most earthquakes occurring in our country cause minor problems. Yet, some are strong and may cause casualties and damage to the infrastructure.
To eliminate such consequences, we must all know **how to protect ourselves before, during and after an earthquake**.
This brochure is published by OASP and aims to inform every visitor of our country about protection measures against earthquakes.

Ed. Dr A. Kourou

Protection measures **before** an earthquake

- **Study** this brochure or visit our website in order to get information (www.oasp.gr).
- **Let** the hotel reception know that you and your family will need help in case of an earthquake, if you know you cannot deal with the situation on your own.
- **Locate** areas in your room and the hotel building where you spend much of your time (e.g. the dining room) so that you can immediately protect yourself in case of an earthquake. Such locations are: under a sturdy desk or a table, away from poorly supported oversize furniture and away from windows. Practice by taking safe cover.
- **Identify** possible dangerous elements in your room or in other areas of the hotel (e.g. large windows) in order to avoid them during an earthquake.
- **Study** the emergency plan of the hotel along with your family. It is placed at the back of the door of your room and at the corridor of every floor. Locate emergency exits and staircases in order to learn how to evacuate your floor after a strong earthquake.
- **Identify** where you can seek refuge after an earthquake. The courtyard of the hotel, the nearest park or square are safe locations.
- **Agree** in advance with all family members where to meet after an earthquake in case you are not together during its occurrence.

Protection measures **during** an earthquake

Stay calm,
This is
the only way
to react
appropriately!

If you are inside your room or in any other indoor area of the hotel:

- **Stay where you are;** do not try to exit the hotel building during the earthquake.
- **Keep away from dangerous locations or objects** (such as windows, oversize furniture, etc.).
- **Take cover under a sturdy wooden desk or table;** hold the leg of the table firmly with your hands and stay there until the seismic motion is over.
- If there isn't a desk or table nearby to cover yourself, **crouch to the floor and protect your head with your arms; stay** in this position until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors:

- **Stay there**. Do not enter your hotel.
- **Immediately move away** from building facades, utility wires, poles, sign columns, etc.
- **Seek refuge at the nearest, open and safe space** (such as a park, a square, etc.).

If you are driving:

- **Keep on driving** but slow down.
- **Park your car** so as not to block traffic. Avoid dangerous locations, such as tall buildings, traffic lights, bridges, poles, etc.

If you are in a mountainous area:

- **Stay away** from areas where landslides may occur or rocks may fall.

If you are near the sea shore:

- **Leave immediately**
  - The earthquake may cause a tsunami. In Greece, tsunamis are very rare.
  - The earthquake may cause damages to the jetty of the harbour.

Stay where you are!
Drop to the floor and crouch!
Cover yourself!

Protection measures **after** an earthquake

- **Stay calm.** Remember that aftershocks may occur, so act quickly and carefully.
- **Put on your shoes** and dress appropriately for the climate.
- **Take necessary supplies with you**: medication, room keys and anything else you may consider as absolutely necessary.
- **Leave the hotel building** using the stairs. Do not use the lift. Follow the instructions of the emergency plan of your hotel. Walk quickly but do not run.
- **Follow the instructions** of the hotel staff.
- **Help other hotel residents** that need help only if this is possible.
- **Go to where the hotel residents are instructed to gather**. Keep away from building facades and other dangerous objects (tiles, windows, etc.).
- **Do not use telephones excessively**. Increased demand may put the network out of service.
- **Do not use your car** unless it is an emergency. Roads must remain clear for emergency vehicles.
- **Do not go close to the seashore** as a tsunami may occur.
- **Get information from the authorities** and follow their instructions. Do not listen to rumours, they cause confusion.

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