

Earthquake Tips for the Laboratory

- Anchor shelving and other unstable, top heavy objects to the walls.
- Install seismic wires or lips on the edges of all shelves.
- Store large containers on lower shelves.
- Secure balances, spectrometers, computers, and other equipment to bench/desk tops with Velcro, silicone sealant, straps, or other methods.
- Restrain compressed gas cylinders with anchors into heavy benches or solid walls - restraints should have non-combustible straps.
- Ensure that all cabinet doors and refrigerator doors close securely.
- Ensure that chemicals are segregated by hazard class with adequate separation between incompatible classes.
- Provide secondary containment for hazardous materials, especially in refrigerators.
- Have spill control materials on hand and ready for immediate use.
- Know where fire extinguishers and other emergency supplies are located, and know how to use them.
- Have an emergency plan for evacuating the lab, stabilizing spills, and shutting off utilities.
- Have an earthquake survival kit on hand.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.