

What to Expect in a Big Urban Earthquake: a timeline

Time after the mainshock earthquake

	SECONDS	MINUTES	HOURS	DAYS	WEEKS	MONTHS	YEARS	PERMANENTLY...
	Ground shaking.							
	Surface fault slip (and afterslip).							
	Landslides.							
	Liquefaction.							
	Other ground failure.							
	Tsunamis.							
	Seiches.							
	Earthquakes (aftershocks) will keep happening.							
	Fires could start and spread.							
	Thousands of structures could be damaged or collapse.							
	Many buildings can't be entered.							
	Many buildings could be standing but beyond repair.							
	Earthquakes can cause injuries and deaths.							
	People could stay outside.							
	People may need shelter.							
	Nonstructural damage may increase injuries and challenges.							
	Elevators could trap people.							
	Debris removal could pose challenges.							
	Damage to one lifeline could affect other lifelines.							
	Electric power could be lost.							
	Natural gas could suffer disruption and fires.							
	Communications could fail.							
	Water systems could be compromised.							
	Flood protection structures could add risks.							
	Traffic nightmares could persist.							
	Public transportation could suffer outages.							
	Toxic chemical releases might be numerous.							
	Hospitals may suffer disruption.							
Health care won't be as usual.								
Mental health issues could be widespread.								
	Some employees won't be available.							
	Port operations might be disrupted.							
	"Supply chain" interruptions could affect wide areas.							
	Businesses may have to relocate or close.							
	People may leave their communities.							
	Schools could be unavailable.							
	The vulnerable will be especially vulnerable.							
	You'll find holes in your plans.							