

Phivolcs: What to do when the 'Big One' comes

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HOW TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR EARTHQUAKE?

In light of the recent earthquakes in Batangas and Lanao, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) released a primer on what to do when an eight-to-10-magnitude earthquake or the “big one” strikes. [Philstar.com/File](#)

MANILA, Philippines — In light of the recent earthquakes in Batangas and Lanao, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) released a primer on what to do when a sizeable earthquake or the “Big One” strikes Metro Manila.

Strong ground shaking, said Phivolcs, may cause extensive damage to, or even the collapse of houses, buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure. Collapsed structures account for most of the casualties during a strong earthquake. Falling objects may also cause injuries.

Other life-threatening hazards include landslides, rock falls, and other mass movements in mountainous or hilly areas. Sandy areas near the coast or riverbanks may also experience soil liquefaction.

The best course of action, Phivolcs said, is preparedness. “The damaging effects of earthquakes can be minimized if we prepare ourselves for the event. Because a large-magnitude earthquake, either from active faults in Luzon or the Manila Trench, may affect Batangas as a whole, it is always prudent to prepare for such eventuality.”

IS YOUR BARANGAY ON OR NEAR AN **ACTIVE FAULT?**



The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology identified villages affected by the West Valley and the East Valley faults in Metro Manila.



West Valley Fault

- **Quezon City** - Bagong Silangan, Bagumbayan, Batasan Hills, Blue Ridge B, Libis, Matandang Balara, Pansol, White Plains, Ugong Norte, Loyola Heights, Pasong Putik Proper and Payatas.
- **Makati City** - East Rembo, Rizal, Pembo, Comembo.
- **Marikina City** - Barangka, Industrial Valley, Malanday, Tumana
- **Muntinlupa City** - Alabang, Bayanan, Buli, Cupang, Poblacion, Putatan, Sucat and Tunasan.
- **Pasig City** - Bagong Ilog and Ugong
- **Taguig City** - Bagumbayan, Bagong Tanyag, Upper Bicutan, Central Bicutan, Lower Bicutan, Maharlika Village, Pinagasama, North Signal Village, Central Signal Village, South Signal Village, Ususan and South Daang Hari.

East Valley Fault

- **San Mateo** - Ampid 1, Dulongbayan 2, Guinayang, Guitnangbayan 2, (Malanday, Maly and Sta. Ana).
- **Rodriguez/Montalban** - Burgos, Macabud, San Jose, San Isidro and San Rafael (Rosario)

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR EARTHQUAKE?



Check the location of your house

if along or near an active fault, prone to landslide, liquefaction and tsunami.



Assess your house using the "How Safe is my House?"

- tool for self-check for earthquake safety



Orient family members

about earthquake and its hazards.



Teach each member

on what to do before, during and after an earthquake.

e.g. during earthquake "DUCK(DROP), COVER, and HOLD"



Conduct observation on safe and unsafe spots in your house.

Have your family member identify each.



Prepare family emergency supply kit.



Prepare family evacuation procedure.

Familiarize your family with the community earthquake evacuation plan.

Walk-through the evacuation route going to the designated evacuation area (open space)



Know the community emergency contact numbers and facilities

such as police and fire stations, hospitals, schools, barangay hall, etc.

Regularly conduct earthquake drill

with your family and other household members. Actively participate during community-wide drill.



Teach your family

basic first aid, how to use the fire extinguisher, switching off waterlines, gas tanks, and circuit breaker.

Agree on how to reunite with family members and plan to communicate

- Have an agreed meeting place.
- Designate a friend or relative outside your area to be contacted.
- If you have children, inquire with the school administrators about their school policies during earthquakes.
- Know where the school-designated evacuation area

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DROP



COVER



HOLD

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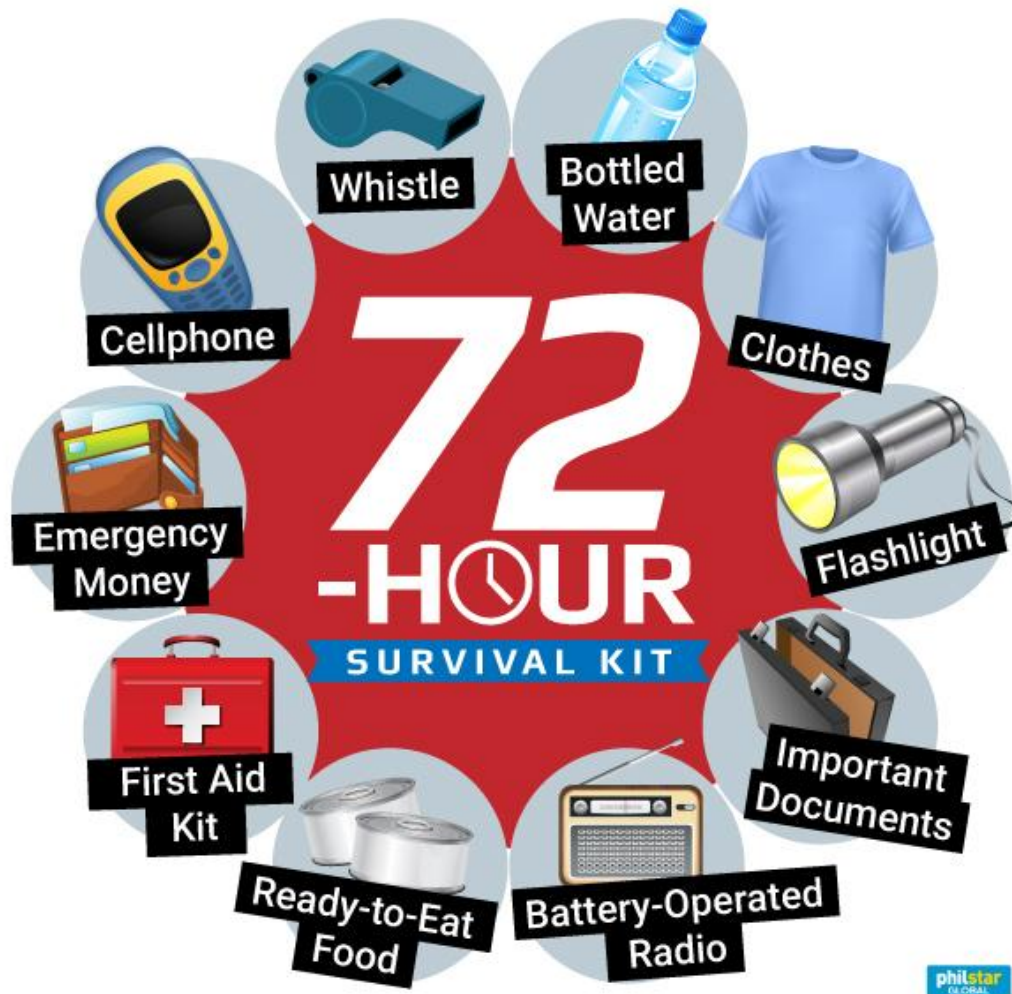
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Agree on how to reunite with family



Checklist of what to have in your 72-hour survival kit. Philstar.com/File

Earthquake swarm in Batangas

According to Phivolcs' April 2017 primer, a phenomenon known as "earthquake swarm" is currently happening in Batangas.

"An earthquake swarm is a burst of earthquake activity clustered in a specific area in a short period of time due to movement of a fault. The Batangas swarm started on 4 April at 8:58 p.m., and is still ongoing to date," Phivolcs explained.

Large-magnitude quakes, according to Phivolcs, have affected Batangas in the past. The biggest one was a magnitude 7.6 in 1852.

The province, said Phivolcs, is one of the most seismically active areas in the Philippines. The current series of earthquakes in Batangas can be attributed to the movement of an unnamed local fault in the vicinity of the Tingloy-Mabini area.

These present quakes, the agency said, do not indicate volcanic activity. "Although Taal Volcano is located approximately 30 kilometers from Mabini, Batangas, the present network of instruments located in and around Taal Volcano shows no indication of any significant change of monitoring parameters suggesting renewed magmatic activity."

The recent earthquake, too, does not trigger a destructive tsunami.

"Small to moderate magnitude earthquake events can still occur in the following days and weeks," the agency warned.