What Tenants Can Do

Take Action. Be Prepared.

- Know multiple ways out of the building in case primary exits are blocked with debris.
- Talk with your landlord – know their coverage and emergency planning for tenants.
- Purchase earthquake insurance if you can afford it.
- Organize with your neighbors to better be able to help each other.
- Know how, when, and where to shut off gas.
- Know how to be safe (Drop, cover, and hold).
- Have a plan that identifies who you can stay with if your building is damaged.

What’s a URM?

A URM (Unreinforced Masonry) is a brick building where the floors and roofs are not structurally connected to the walls.

Signs Include

- Classic red brick
- Arched windows
- Row of brick ends

There are approximately 1000 URMs in Seattle

Safety Is Everyone’s Responsibility
Did you know that

SEATTLE

is in an earthquake zone?

SEATTLE IS AT RISK FOR THE BIG ONE

In the next 50 years our region has an 84% chance of an earthquake of magnitude 6.8 OR GREATER!

WHAT HAPPENS TO A URM DURING AN EARTHQUAKE?

Walls pull away from floors and roofs. Walls partly or fully collapse, resulting in falling brick. A building can collapse and cause injury and destroy the building and its contents.

IMPACTS

Beyond the visible loss of community character, quakes can have serious impacts on URMs.

URM MYTHS

MYTH: IT SURVIVED THE LAST EARTHQUAKE, IT’S FINE!
TRUTH: Unseen damage from past earthquakes is compounded by the next one, which could be stronger.

MYTH: I’M NOT THE OWNER, I CAN’T DO ANYTHING.
TRUTH: You can be prepared and know what to do when it happens. See the back page to learn what you should do before an earthquake.

MYTH: IT WON’T HAPPEN HERE IN MY LIFETIME.
TRUTH: It could happen anytime - that’s the nature of earthquakes - but you can be prepared.

MYTH: THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.
TRUTH: Government aid doesn’t cover everything. Many businesses never reopen and residences may be uninhabitable for a long time.

SEE HOW YOU CAN PREPARE ON THE NEXT PAGE