

RE: Proper Conduct Upon the Occurrence of an Earthquake

A number of earthquakes occurred this week in the north of the country. We deem it fitting to refresh the guidelines on the matter.

This procedure was issued by the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee for Gearing Up for Earthquakes at the Office of the Prime Minister.

When sojourning inside a building, act as per the following sequence of priorities:

- If it is possible to exit the building within a matter of seconds - exit the building for an open area (mainly aimed at those sojourning in a single story building or on the ground floor of a multi-story building).
- If it is **not** possible to exit the building quickly - access the bomb proof protected area. Leave the door of the bomb proof protected area open.
- If it is **not** possible to exit the building quickly and there is no bomb proof area - access the stairwell and, if possible, continue descending to the exit point of the building.
- Only if you are unable to act in this manner - take cover under a heavy piece of furniture or sit on the floor next to an interior wall.

When sojourning outside in the open:

Should the earthquake occur when you are outside of the building - **remain in the open area** and stay far away from buildings, bridges and electricity pylons.

When sojourning on the beach:

If you are at the beach when an earthquake occurs, leave the beach immediately out of an apprehension that a Tsunami will sweep the beach. Move at least **1** kilometer away from the beach.

Anyone who is unable to leave the beach area should ascend to at least the 4th floor of a nearby building.

Do not return to the beach for a 12 hour period after the earthquake. A sudden and powerful ebb of sea water is a sign of an approaching tsunami.

Proper conduct after an earthquake:

- Exit the building and make sure to remain in an open area, far from buildings and from torn electricity wires.
- Prepare and take the family emergency kit with you.
- Listen to the media for instructions.

Additional Guidelines

- Prior to exiting the building - shut off the main gas valve and electrical switch.
- On the way to a safe place, stay away from exterior walls of buildings, from windows and from windowsills.
- Do not use the elevator during and after an earthquake - there is a risk of getting stuck inside the elevator.
- If you are confined to a wheel chair - lock the wheels and protect your head (after reaching a safe area).