

Emergency protocols: Earthquakes

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL: EARTHQUAKES

Because the potential for seismic activity exists in the area, the Office of International Programs (OPI) at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) would like to inform all of our international students and their sending universities/organizations of the following information.

Although we <u>cannot predict</u> when an earthquake will occur or the level of intensity if one occurs, the USFQ community has prepared an extensive <u>emergency response protocol</u> in the event of an earthquake. International students should read the following information thoroughly in order to <u>know what steps to take</u> before, during and after an earthquake.

Before an earthquake occurs:

- 1 **Familiarize with steps:** take during and after an earthquake, including the list of items you are advised to carry with you at all times, campus safe zones, and emergency response protocols.
- 2 **Familiarize with protocols in your accommodation:** know about potential risks associated with your accommodations and (if applicable) discuss any earthquake protocols and/or safe zones with your host family.
- 3 **Determine objects:** that may pose a danger to you in the event of an earthquake, such as windows, tables, lamps, hanging objects, etc., and, if possible, relocate or secure them.
- 4 **Essentials items:** keep the following items with you at all times: copies of your identification documents (e.g. passport); bottled water; and a list of emergency telephone numbers.

During an earthquake:

- 1) **Calm and follow instructions**: of your professor(s), campus security guards, police officers, or other persons of authority.
- 2) Depending on your location at the time of the earthquake, take the following precautions:
 - a. *Outside*: Get into an open area. Stay away from buildings, trees, streetlights, electric cables, and other structures that could be damaged and fall during the earthquake.
 - b. *Inside:* Do not run for the doors. Instead, seek shelter under a desk or table away from windows, light fixtures, bookshelves, exterior doors and walls, and other objects that present a risk of breaking or falling on you.
 - i. Make sure to hold on to the desk or table as it may shift during the earthquake. If you do not have access to a desk or table, cover your face and head with your hands and stay away from hazards such as windows or shelves.
 - c. *In a moving vehicle*: Stop the vehicle as soon as possible, avoiding stopping near or beneath buildings, trees, telephone poles, or electric wires.
 - i. Remain inside the vehicle until the earthquake passes and then proceed cautiously, checking the road conditions for damages. If you need to leave the vehicle, exercise caution near trees, electric wires, and other objects that may have been damaged during the earthquake and could pose a risk of falling on you.



Following an earthquake:

- 1. **Follow instrucctions:** Continue to remain calm and follow the instructions of your professor(s), campus security guards, police officers, or other persons of authority regarding where/how to proceed with evacuation as necessary.
- 2. **Trapped beneath debris:** do not try to light a fire. Try not to move, as this will stir up dust.
 - a. Cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief or your clothing.
 - b. Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescue personnel can find you.
 - c. Use a whistle if you have one. Shout only as a last resort as the dust may affect you if you shout.
- 3. **Safe zone**: Otherwise, go to a safe zone.
 - a. If you are inside a building, leave the building and proceed to a secure area.
 - b. If you are on the main USFQ campus in Cumbayá, go to one of the designated safe zones.
 - c. Do not use any elevators.
- 4. **Check for injuries**. Do not try to move people who are seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury.
 - a. If you must move an unconscious person, first make sure to stabilize the person's neck and back. Then call for help immediately. Keep the injured person warm with blankets or clothing, but take care to ensure that they do not overheat.
 - b. Do not give any water or liquids to an unconscious person.
- 5. **Check in:** Once you have reached a safe location, check in with family, friends, and the USFQ Office of International Programs, if possible, to advise them of your location and your health status.
 - a. Keep in mind that cellular networks and internet access may be disrupted following the earthquake.
- 6. **Off Campus location**: Students who are not on campus during the earthquake should remain in a secure off-campus location and wait for an assessment from the USFQ Risk Management Committee regarding building safety.
 - a. An announcement will made regarding when regular activities, including classes, will resume.

Additional important information:

- If the earthquake results in a loss of electricity, use only battery-powered flashlights or lanterns. <u>Do not use candles or matches since there may be a gas leak.</u>
- International students are also encouraged to <u>visit OPI's office</u> for further advice or assistance.
- Please familiarize yourself with the following information:



EMERGENCY RESPONSE NUMBERS:

Emergency number in Quito:

• 0980834444

Emergency number in the Galápagos:

• 0981308687

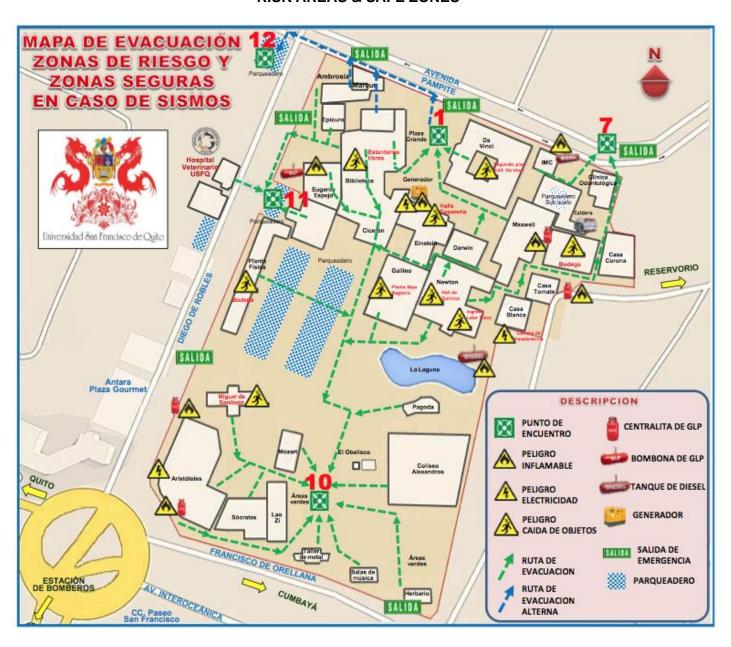
National Emergency Line:

• 911



Evacuation Maps

EVACUATION MAP: USFQ CUMBAYA CAMPUS RISK AREAS & SAFE ZONES





EVACUATION MAP: PASEO SAN FRANCISCO RISK AREAS & SAFE ZONES





EVACUATION MAP: *MEDICAL SCHOOL*RISK AREAS & SAFE ZONES

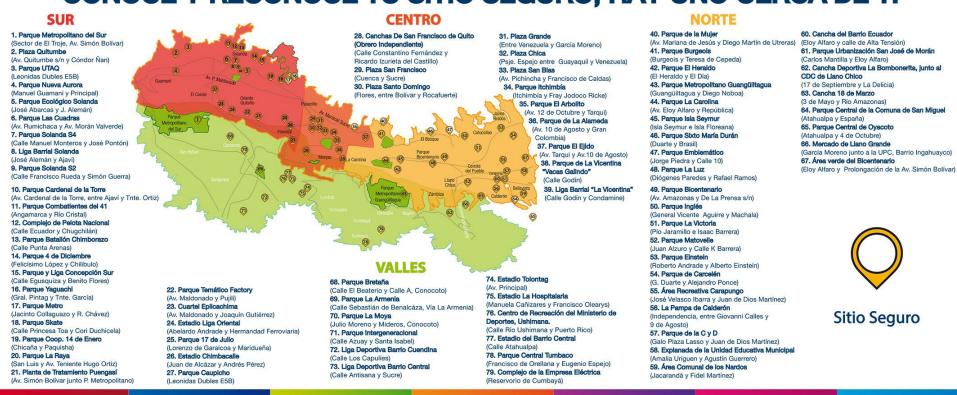




EVACUATION MAP: QUITO METROPOLITAN AREA

- RISK AREAS & SAFE ZONES

CONOCE Y RECONOCE TU SITIO SEGURO, HAY UNO CERCA DE TI



If any international student or international university/organization has a question or concern about earthquake safety, please visit us at Casa Corona or send us an email at opi@usfq.edu.ec.