

## Earthquake Damage Reports

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*Security tape from a local Walgreens shows shaking during the earthquake.*

A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck the Illinois-Indiana state line about 40 miles north of Evansville early Friday morning.

### What to do after an earthquake

The Indiana Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors recommends that consumers check for plumbing leaks after this morning's earthquake. Water heaters that are located in the garage must be on a stand or platform. Water heaters on a stand are most susceptible for gas or water leaks.

If you have a water leak, shut the water off to the house. If there is a gas leak, remove yourself from the immediate area and call the gas company.

The following are damage reports from areas around central Indiana.

### More tips (Source: FEMA)

*Although these tips are for more serious earthquake situations, it's a good idea to check your home for damage.*

Expect aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures and can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake.

Listen to a battery-operated radio or television. Listen for the latest emergency information.

Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.

Stay away from damaged areas. Stay away unless your assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or relief organizations. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.

Be aware of possible tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. These are also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called "tidal waves"). When local authorities issue a tsunami warning, assume that a series of dangerous waves is on the way. Stay away from the beach.

Help injured or trapped persons. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance such as infants, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.

Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.

Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage. Unnoticed damage could lead to a fire.

### Inspect utilities.

Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.

Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.

Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

See the [Central US Earthquake Consortium page](#) for more info.

## **Evansville**

Minor injuries are being reported by Evansville-area television stations. The injuries are mainly from items falling and hitting people.

New Harmony reported some bricks falling off buildings.

## **Carmel Clay Schools**

No damage: None of the 15 Carmel Clay schools or the administration building suffered damage in this morning's earthquake, according to preliminary reports from building principals.

High school students from St. Louis who are members of the Gateway Percussion Ensemble who were staying overnight at Carmel High School said stacked chairs in the freshman performing arts center rattled and shook for at least 30 seconds, but none of the chairs fell to the floor. Several students said they called their parents at home to report the earthquake, and their parents told them they had experienced the event as well. Carmel High School provided overnight accommodations for these students, who are headed to Dayton, Ohio for the Winter Guard International Percussion World Championships.

Several schools in the district temporarily lost their network, cable TV, Internet and e-mail services about two hours after the earthquake, but it was not immediately clear that this service interruption was due to the earthquake, according to the Carmel Clay technology support staff.

A brief power outage in parts of Carmel High School this morning were rectified almost immediately and were not caused by the quake, according to the high school maintenance staff.