

SAFETY ALERT

November 9, 2022

Seismic Safety in Office Areas

Seismic anchoring of furnishings and equipment is required where it may prevent blocking of exit passages, and where items may topple and crush personnel in case of an earthquake. Always check your work areas and ensure you are prepared for an earthquake. LBNL procedures for seismic safety can be found at: [LBNL Seismic Safety RPM2](#)

The following items are required to be secured against toppling or emptying of contents during a seismic event:

1. Contents of shelves or cabinets that may fall and pose hazards during an earthquake must be secured in a cabinet or shelf by doors or other restraining mechanisms such as 3/4-inch-tall lips at the front of shelves, or elastic cords on bookshelves.
2. Bookcases, file cabinets, storage cabinets, electronics racks, and other furnishings that are more than 4 feet high, regardless of weight.
3. All equipment and furnishings that weigh more than 400 pounds.
4. Equipment that is mounted to a table top and weighs more than 100 pounds.
5. Bookcases and other furnishings regardless of height or weight where they might block doors or exit passages.
6. Heavy items on shelves where they might fall down on personnel below.

Where equipment is anchored, it must be bolted to structural elements, such as studs in walls, or secured to concrete with approved anchors. Seismic anchoring may require Facilities Division Penetration permits, depending on the depth of the anchors and the location. Contact the Facilities Division Work Request Center for seismic anchoring. Facilities Division carpenters have been instructed on acceptable methods of anchoring typical furnishings.

Easy to install seismic anchoring devices for small counter top equipment can be purchased by vendors such as Grainger through the eBuy procurement system. There is also an assortment of anchoring devices available from non-LBNL suppliers such as "Safe-T-Proof" and "Quakehold".

If you have questions regarding seismic safety, contact the ETA Safety Manager, Ron Scholtz, at X8137 or the ETA Building Manager, Joey Silveira at X7010.

