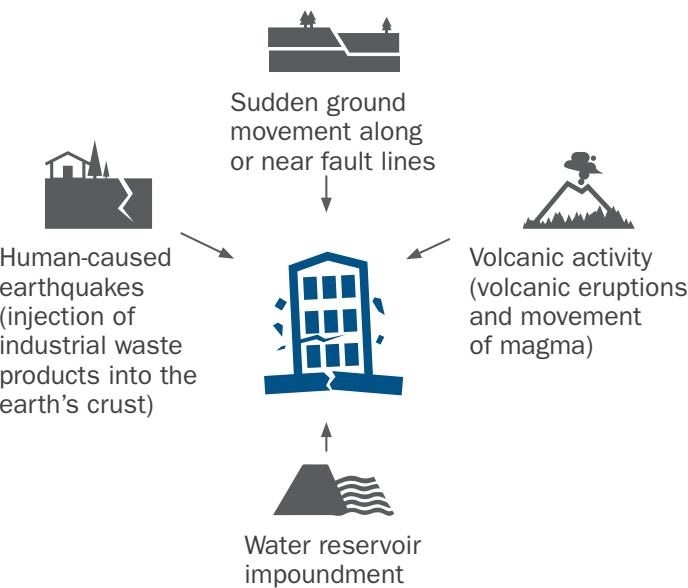


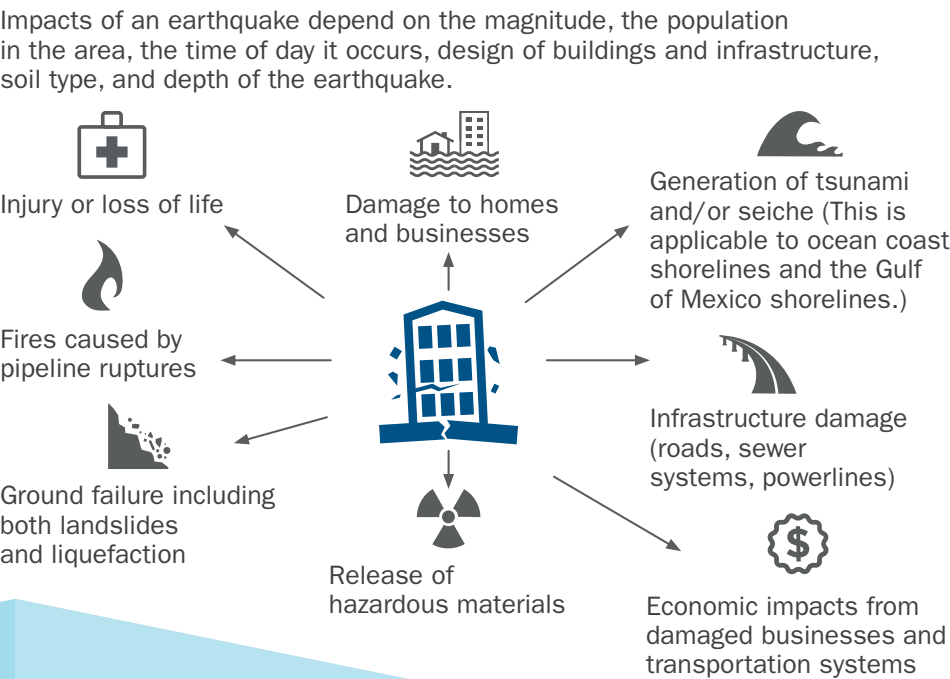
# EARTHQUAKE

A sudden release of energy that creates a movement in the earth’s crust, whether it is the initial earthquake or aftershock.

## CAUSES



## IMPACTS



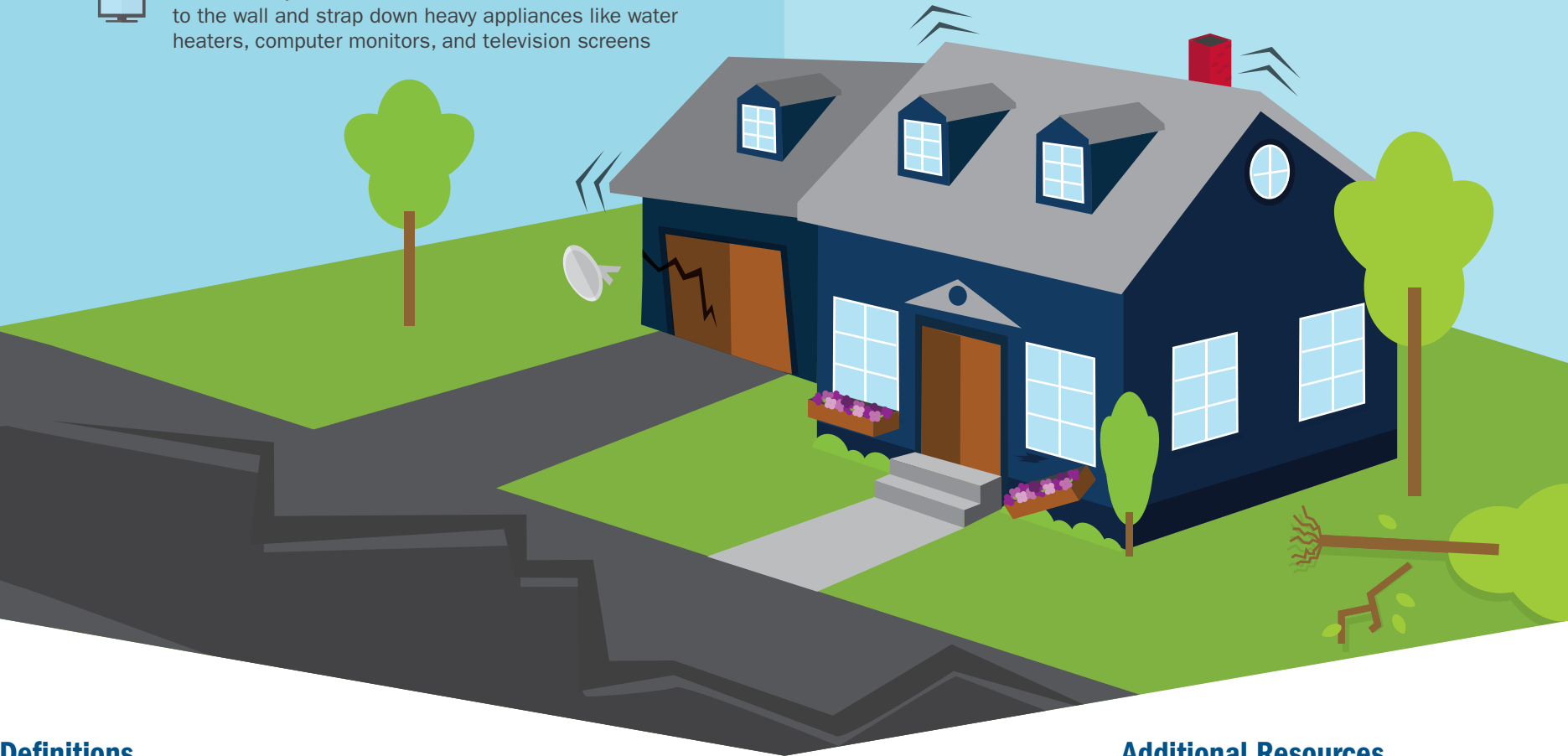
## Reducing Risk

### HOW I CAN REDUCE MY RISK

- Anchor rooftop-mounted equipment (e.g., HVAC units and satellite dishes)
- Use bracing to reinforce and anchor masonry chimneys and building facades
- Bolt your home to its foundation
- Protect your investment and consider earthquake insurance, especially if you live in a high-risk area
- Have your home inspected for earthquake vulnerabilities by a licensed professional
- Anchor heavy items like book cases and armoires to the wall and strap down heavy appliances like water heaters, computer monitors, and television screens

### HOW LOCAL OFFICIALS CAN REDUCE MY RISK

- Prioritize seismic retrofits of critical facilities and infrastructure
- Consider increased seismic standards for bridges and critical infrastructure
- Conduct outreach to builders, architects, engineers, inspectors, and real estate professionals
- Conduct routine inspections of buildings for earthquake safety
- Adopt and enforce seismic building codes
- Retrofit unreinforced masonry buildings
- Plan evacuation routes, especially for tsunami and volcanic activity
- Incentivize local earthquake mitigation programs



## Definitions

- Fault:** Features in the Earth’s crust where rock periodically breaks and moves, releasing seismic energy and creating an earthquake.
- Liquefaction:** A process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid, like when you wiggle your toes in the wet sand near the water at the beach. This effect can be caused by earthquake shaking.

Contact your local or state emergency management department for more information on earthquake risk reduction.

## Additional Resources

- Ready.gov  
[www.ready.gov/earthquakes](http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes)
- Earthquake Risk  
[www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/earthquake](http://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/earthquake)
- Earthquake Safety at Home  
[www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema\\_earthquakes\\_fema-p-530-earthquake-safety-at-home-march-2020.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_earthquakes_fema-p-530-earthquake-safety-at-home-march-2020.pdf)

