- Check foundation for cracks and repair as needed.
- Bolt heavy, tall, upright furniture to wall studs.
- Secure mirrors and pictures to walls or hang them with heavy wire, looped through eye screws, or tongue-in-groove hangers.
STEP 1. IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS

Determine the non-structural risks that are present in the home or workplace and assess the threat those risks pose.

At Home

- Are there heavy and/or tall items in the home that may move or fall during an earthquake?
  - If these items moved or fell, would they block exit routes out of a room or out of the house?
  - Can these items be secured to structural support (i.e., wall studs)?
- Are hanging plants and light fixtures secured to prevent them from swinging free, breaking against walls or furniture, or breaking windows?
- Are gas appliances securely fastened in place (e.g., water heater and clothes dryer) so they won’t pull the gas line connections apart?
- Are wall-mounted objects (clocks, pictures, mirrors, etc.) secured against falling?
- Are items on shelves and in display cabinets secured to prevent them from falling out?
- Is the house securely fastened to its foundation?

At Work

- Are items on shelves and in cabinets secured to prevent them from falling out?
- Are there items that no longer serve a useful function that can be removed?
- Are there incompatible chemicals stored together that should be moved to prevent mixing if the containers break?
- Are free-standing file cabinets, bookcases, and other tall pieces of furniture secured to structural support?
- Are items on shelves and in display cabinets secured to prevent them from falling out?

STEP 2. MAKE A PLAN

- Identify which mitigation activities will most reduce the risks of damage and injury.
- Determine which activities can be accomplished at little or no cost (i.e., securing bookcases to walls, closed hooks for pictures and mirrors).
- Determine the best method for correcting larger problems (retrofit, remodel, or incremental upgrades).
- Consider purchasing only items considered “seismic-resistant” in the future. For example, file cabinets with strong latches on the drawers and have wall or floor attachments.
- Routinely check protective measures you have already taken to see that they are still effective.

Mitigation Activities

- Bolt home to foundation to prevent shifting during an earthquake.
- Lock or remove rollers on beds, furniture, and appliances.
- Secure hanging plants and light fixtures with one or more guy wires to prevent swinging into walls or windows and breaking.
- Locate beds away from windows and heavy wall-mounted objects.
- Secure kitchen and bathroom cabinets with “positive” (self-closing) latches.
- Secure items on shelves with quake mats, Velcro™, low shelf barrier, or other restraining devices.
- Store heavy and/or breakable items on lower shelves.
- Strap water heater and all gas appliances to wall studs.
- Use flexible gas connections on gas appliances.
- Check chimney for loose bricks and repair as needed.