

February 2025

## Earthquake Awareness Month

February is Earthquake Awareness Month. As a homeowner, this annual campaign should be of significant interest as it can help you understand various dangers related to earthquakes and how you can protect your home.

### Earthquake-related Precautions for Your Home

These seismic events often have little or no warning, making ample preparations critical. Consider the following strategies:

- **Reinforce structures.** Upgrade and retrofit your home, such as by using seismic bracing and foundation bolting.
- **Stabilize items.** Use straps to anchor large appliances and furniture to walls and seal cabinets and drawers to prevent their contents from spilling.
- **Prepare for shutdowns.** Know the location of your water and gas shutoff valves and main circuit breaker and ensure you know how to use them.
- **Consider insurance.** Earthquakes are typically excluded from standard home insurance, necessitating an endorsement or separate policy to ensure coverage.

Contact us today to learn more about protecting your home from seismic activity and other natural disasters.

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## Home Cybersecurity Tips

Feb. 11 is Safer Internet Day, which seeks to help communities stay safe online.

Consider the following home cybersecurity tips:



1. **Protect your Wi-Fi.** Change your router's default network name and password and consider creating an alternative network for guests.
2. **Add layers of security.** Use multifactor authentication to verify logins and ensure hackers can't access your accounts with only your password.
3. **Educate family members.** Ensure everyone in your household knows not to click on suspicious links or download unexpected attachments.
4. **Stay updated.** Keep software and programs up to date, as patches often include important cybersecurity measures.

For more information about Valent Group's condominium association (COA) specialization, please visit [www.valentgroup.com/condo-associations](http://www.valentgroup.com/condo-associations) or contact Kris Kahalley at (251) 404-9093.

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