

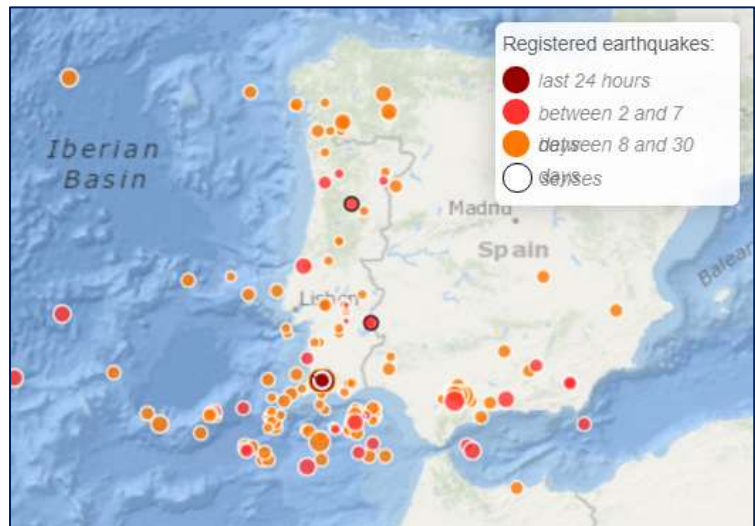
# Shudder the thought!

We hope that we will never have to experience an earthquake, but if we do the action we can take in the first few seconds can determine whether or not we become a casualty.

Each day in 10 - 12 minor earth tremors take place in or around Portugal, the majority off the south and south west coast of the country.

No need for panic, however, as these are very small mostly less than 2.5 magnitude, and are seldom felt. (Please see the IPMA map). To put this in perspective there are some one to 1.3 million tremors of this size globally each year.

However the 1755 earthquake that destroyed most of Lisbon and parts of the Algarve was much larger at 8.5 – 9.0 and was accompanied by a fire. The last major earthquake was in 1969.



Basically in an earthquake most people die and are injured attempting to leave the building down stairs. So unless you are next to an entrance the safest place is to drop to the floor, cover yourself under a table and hold on, known as, “DROP, COVER, HOLD ON”. Experience has shown that calm acting during an earthquake greatly contributes to minimizing its effects.

Being prepared involves all of us, by creating awareness of the risk and simple life protection measures we can take, should an earthquake strike.

Plan ahead, by making an emergency plan for your family; ensuring everyone knows what to do in the event of an earthquake and decide a meeting place in advance, in case the family members separate during the earthquake.

During an earthquake - If you are indoors in a building

- If you are on one of the upper floors of a building, do not rush to the stairs; never use elevators.
- Take shelter in the interior doorway, in the corners of the rooms, or under a table or bed.
- Head to an open location calmly, away from the sea or waterways.
- Keep away from buildings (especially the most degraded, high or isolated) from electricity poles and other objects that may fall on you.
- Get away from slopes, walls, chimneys and balconies that may collapse.

Each year therefore the Portuguese Government (ANEPC) conducts what is known as the “A Terra Treme” exercise. Last year it was in November and over 600,000 people participated, by practicing

“Drop, Cover, Hold On”. Most schools were involved as well as many businesses. We await news of this years, but when it as announced please become involved. Details will be on the Safe Communities Algarve Facebook page and our website.

Comprehensive protection measure and details of earthquakes and tsunamis can be found on our website [www.safecommunitiesportugal.com/civilprotection/](http://www.safecommunitiesportugal.com/civilprotection/) earthquakes -tsunami