

Mobile Homes in Earthquakes

How to protect your home and family



Courtesy National Information Service for Earthquake Engineering, University of California, Berkeley.

Earthquakes threaten older mobile homes through collapse and fire

- Many older mobile homes rest on slender supports that overturn in earthquakes.
- Collapse injures occupants and damages homes, contents, water heater, and utilities.
- Collapse can render exits unsafe, especially for occupants fleeing a fire.
- Fires spread faster between closely spaced dwellings. Narrow roads make fire department access harder.

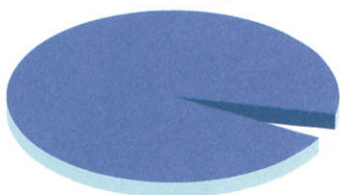
Bracing mobile homes can make a big difference

Mobile homes are


2 to 5

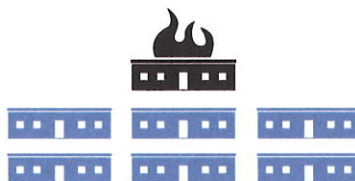
times more vulnerable than wood-frame houses.

In strong shaking,



95% of unbraced mobile homes can fall off their foundations.

In mobile home parks in a past earthquake,



1 in 7 homes burned, several because the mobile home collapsed.

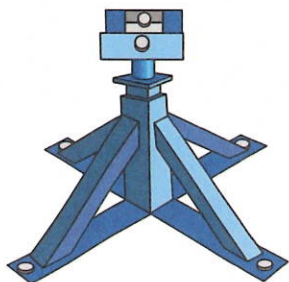


Earthquakes up to **magnitude 7.5**

can happen any day in Arizona.

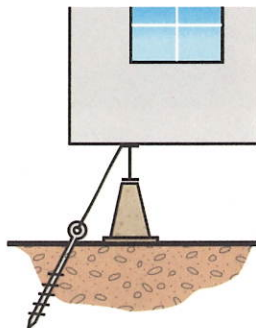
How to protect your home and family

Reduce or prevent collapse



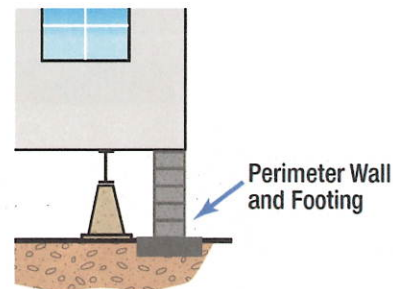
Good: Earthquake Resistant Bracing System (ERBS)
\$3,000 – \$5,000

OR



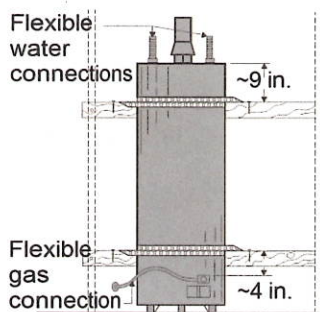
Better: Engineered Tie-down System (ETS)
\$1,000 – \$2,000

OR



Best: Reinforced concrete or reinforced masonry foundation
\$5,000 – \$50,000

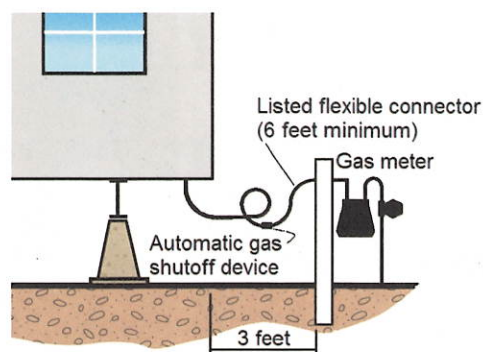
Reduce or prevent fire



◀ Brace water heater (\$35 – \$200)

AND

Flexible gas connection (\$100) ▶



Ensure quality retrofit work

- Find the right contractor. For tips for hiring a contractor, see <http://www.azroc.gov/rocnews/Keepapapertrail.htm>.
- Check ERBS certification. Arizona does not require certification, but California has a certification system. Have the contractor show you the ERBS complies with CA Adm. Code, Title 25, Chapter 2, Art. 7.5.
- Get the work permitted and inspected. The Arizona Department of Fire, Building, and Life Safety, Office of Manufactured Housing, inspects the installation of manufactured homes. Find contact info at <http://www.dfbls.az.gov/contacts/OMHInspectors.aspx>
- Monitor your contractor's work as it is being done.

Other ways to reduce loss

- Put latches on cabinet doors
- Brace canopies and awnings
- Consider earthquake insurance, <http://bit.ly/1JmDzvb>
- Have water and food for at least three days, ideally two weeks
- Plan for emergencies with neighbors, <http://bit.ly/MobileHomePlanning>
- Visit www.shakeout.org and practice Drop, Cover, and Hold On.
- Update and practice your plan annually