The Armenia Earthquake: Grinding out Effective Disaster Response in Colombia’s Coffee Region
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The 1999 Coffee Axis, Colombia earthquake was an earthquake that heavily affected the city of Armenia, Colombia in the Quindío department, 18 towns and 28 villages in the Colombian Coffee-Growers Axis region departments, and to a lesser degree, the cities of Pereira and Manizales.
Causes

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Death toll and Injured
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The structures of many hospitals were damaged, and the resources available for health care were insufficient even before the event. Furthermore, the area had limited reaction plans case of disasters and little experience with triage.
The main economic activity of the region, the Colombian coffee industry was heavily affected. About 8,000 coffee farms were completely or partially destroyed, and 13,000 structures of several kinds of enterprises and industries were damaged and went temporarily or permanently out of service. The banks and financial entities could not dispense money for several weeks.
**Before**

The key to effective disaster prevention is planning:
- Know the earthquake hazards in your area.
- Follow structural design and engineering practices when constructing a house or building.
- Evaluate the structural soundness of the buildings and houses; strengthen or retrofit if necessary.

**Prepare your homes, workplace or schools:**
- Strap or bolt heavy furniture/cabinets to the walls.
- Check the stability of hanging objects like ceiling fans and chandeliers.
- Breakable items, harmful chemicals and flammable materials should be stored properly in the lowermost secured shelves.

**Familiarize yourself with the exit routes.**
Know where fire extinguishers, first aid kits, alarms, and communication facilities are located. Learn how to use them beforehand.

Prepare a handy emergency supply kit with first aid kit, canned food and can opener, water, clothing, blanket, battery-operated radio, flashlights and extra batteries.

Conduct and participate in regular earthquake drills.

**During**

**STAY CALM.**
When you are INSIDE a structurally sound building or home... STAY THERE!

Do the "DUCK, COVER and HOLD".
- If possible quickly open the door for exit.
- Duck under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it, or protect your head with your arms.

**Stay away from glass windows, shelves, cabinets and other heavy objects.**

Beware of falling objects. Be alert and keep your eyes open.

**If you're OUTSIDE...move to an open area!**
- Stay away from trees, powerlines, posts and concrete structures.
- Move away from steep slopes which may be affected by landslides.

**If you're near the shore and feel an earthquake, especially if it's too strong, move quickly to higher grounds. Tsunamis might follow.**

**After**

Be prepared for aftershocks. Once the shaking stops, take the fastest and safest way out of the building.

**Check...**
- for spills of chemical, toxic and flammable materials.
- and control fires which may spread.

If you need to evacuate your...
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It’s time to play!!!
Thank you!

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