

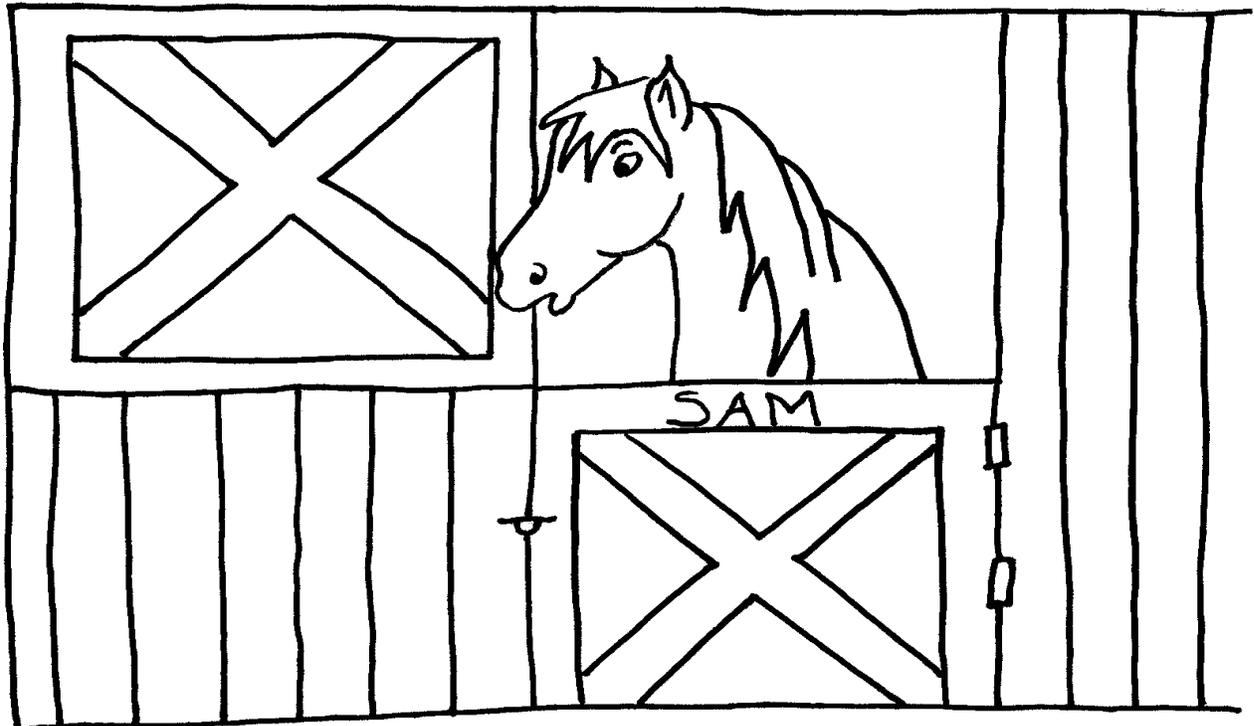
# Sam

## The Disaster Horse

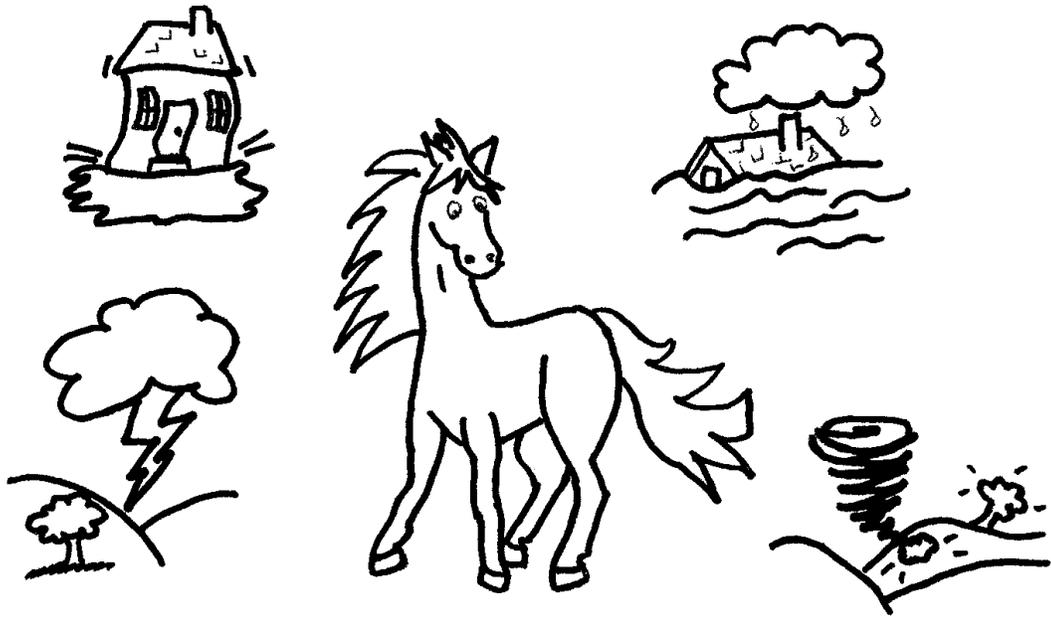


## Earthquake Safety

Illustrations and Narrative by Jennifer V. Warmke ©



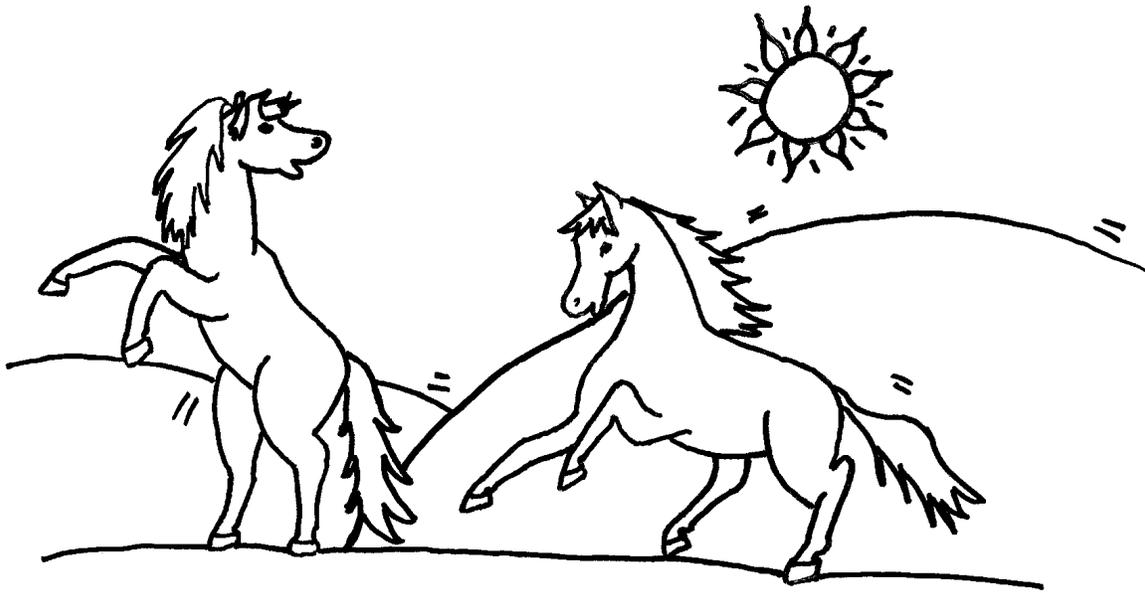
Hi! I'm Sam, the Disaster Horse and I'm here to tell you about my latest adventure.



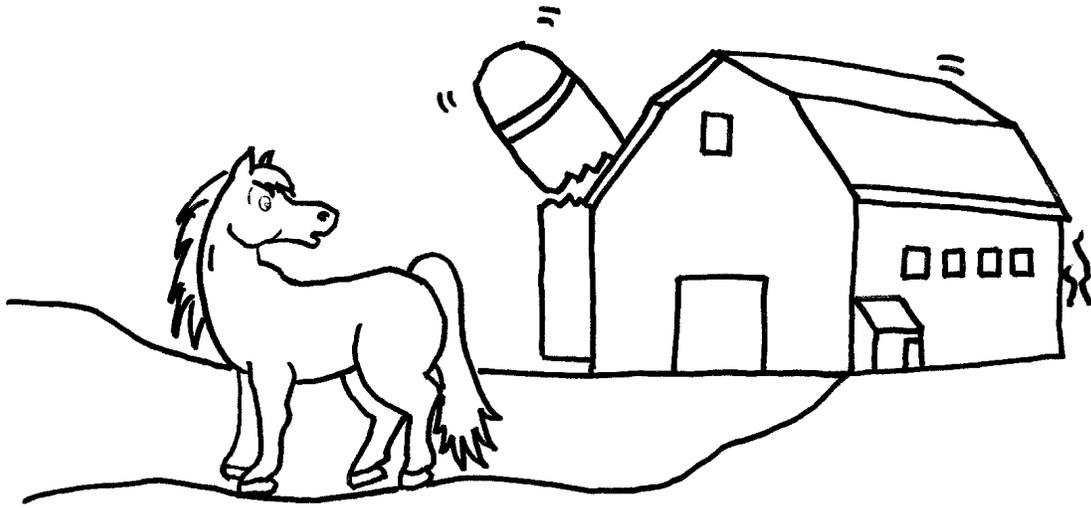
Now, as you know, for some reason disasters just seem to happen around me. Since they do, I have learned what to do to stay safe when these scary things happen and then I share those things with you so you know what to do to stay safe too!



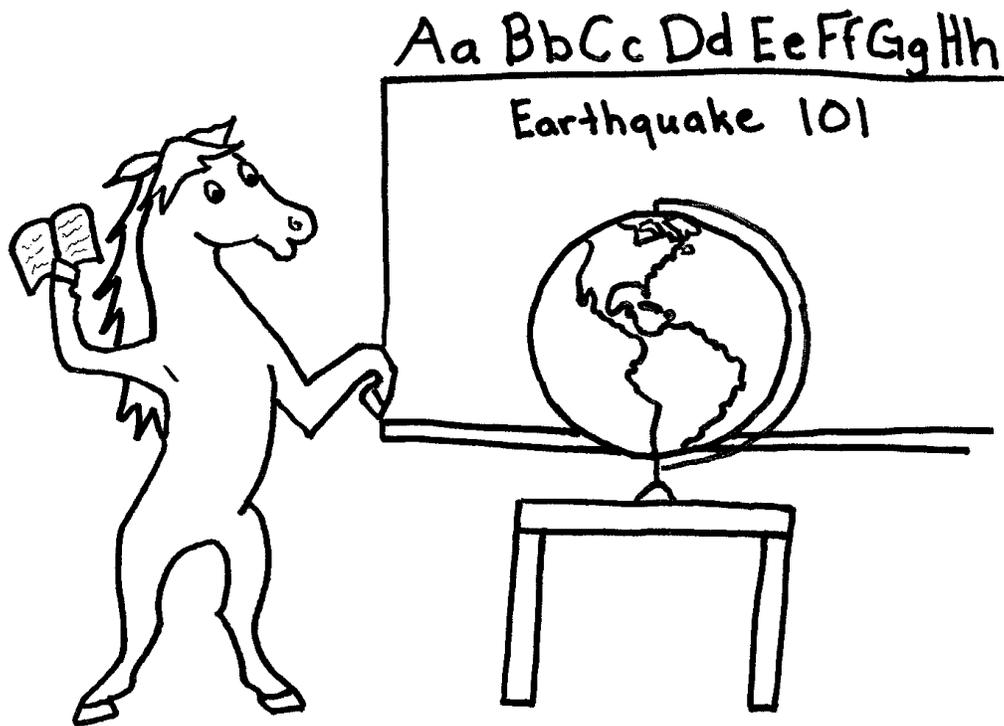
This past summer my family took a vacation to visit some friends on the west coast. Out there I met a new friend named Toby.



We were out playing when the ground suddenly began to shake. I got scared and wanted to run inside, but Toby stopped me. He said that we were having an earthquake and that since we were outside that we should stay where we were and keep away from buildings and trees that might fall down.



Toby said that sometimes, when the ground shakes because of an earthquake, that buildings, trees and even power lines will fall down. He said that where we were playing in the big field was the safe place to stay.



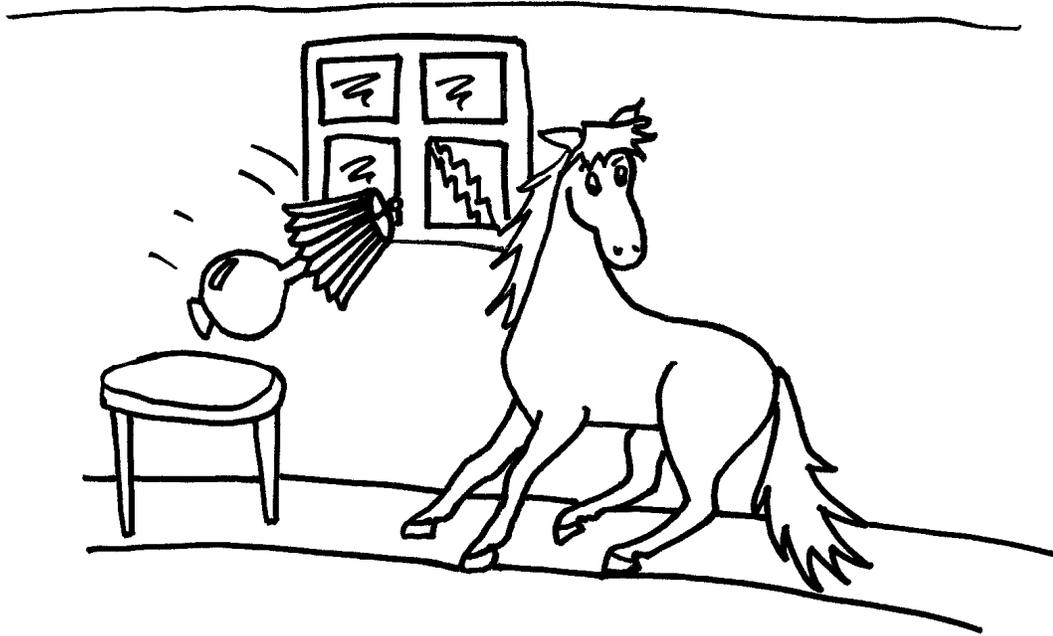
When the ground stopped shaking I asked Toby what an earthquake was because where I come from we don't have them. He told me that an earthquake is the shaking or rolling of the Earth's surface because of the Earth's crust moving beneath us.



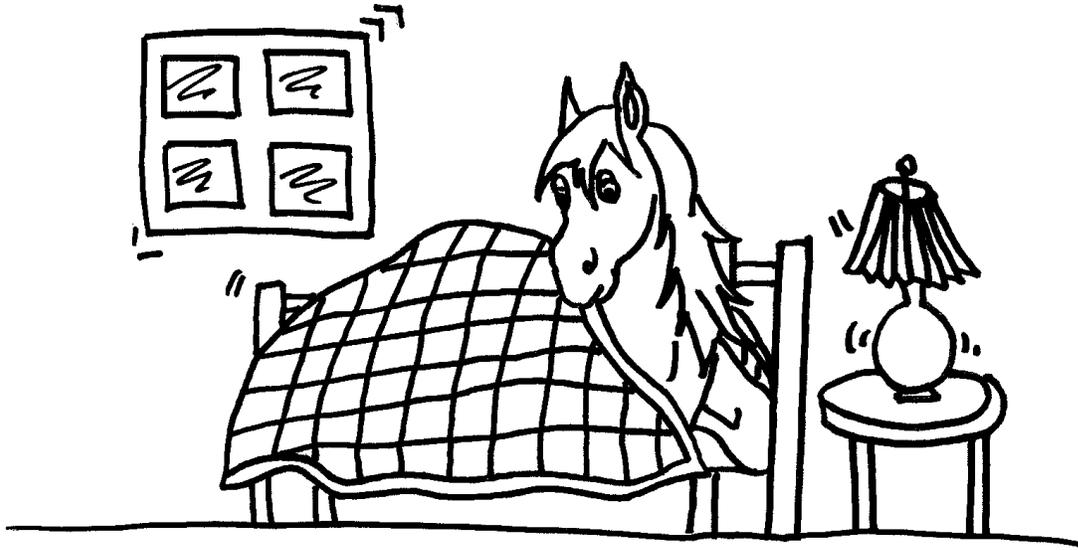
Toby said that earthquakes don't last very long, but that they don't know when they will happen so that means that we need to know what to do to stay safe when they do happen.



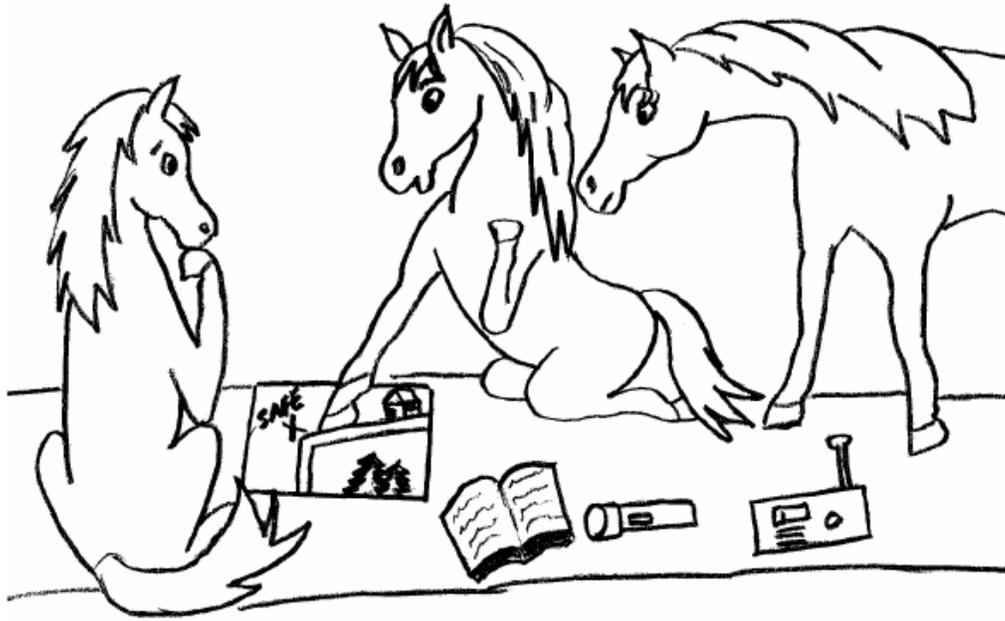
Toby said you should always remember to Drop, Cover and Hold. He said that when the ground starts shaking because of an earthquake that I should drop to the ground, get under a sturdy table or desk for cover in case things fall down, and hold on to that table or desk until the shaking stops.



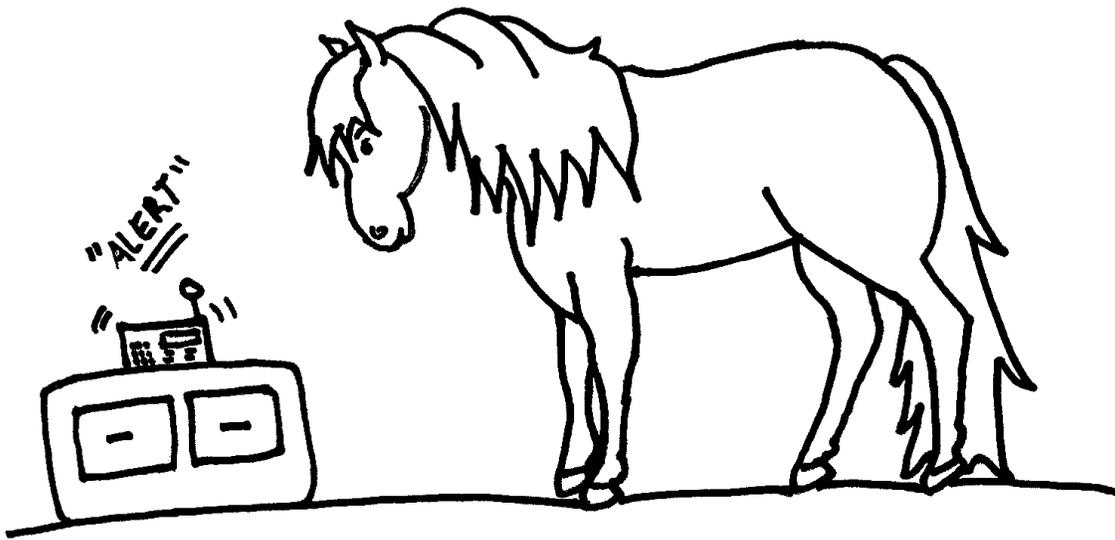
Toby said to watch out for things that could wiggle off of shelves and tables so that they didn't fall on me. He also said that sometimes windows break during an earthquake so I should stay away from them too.



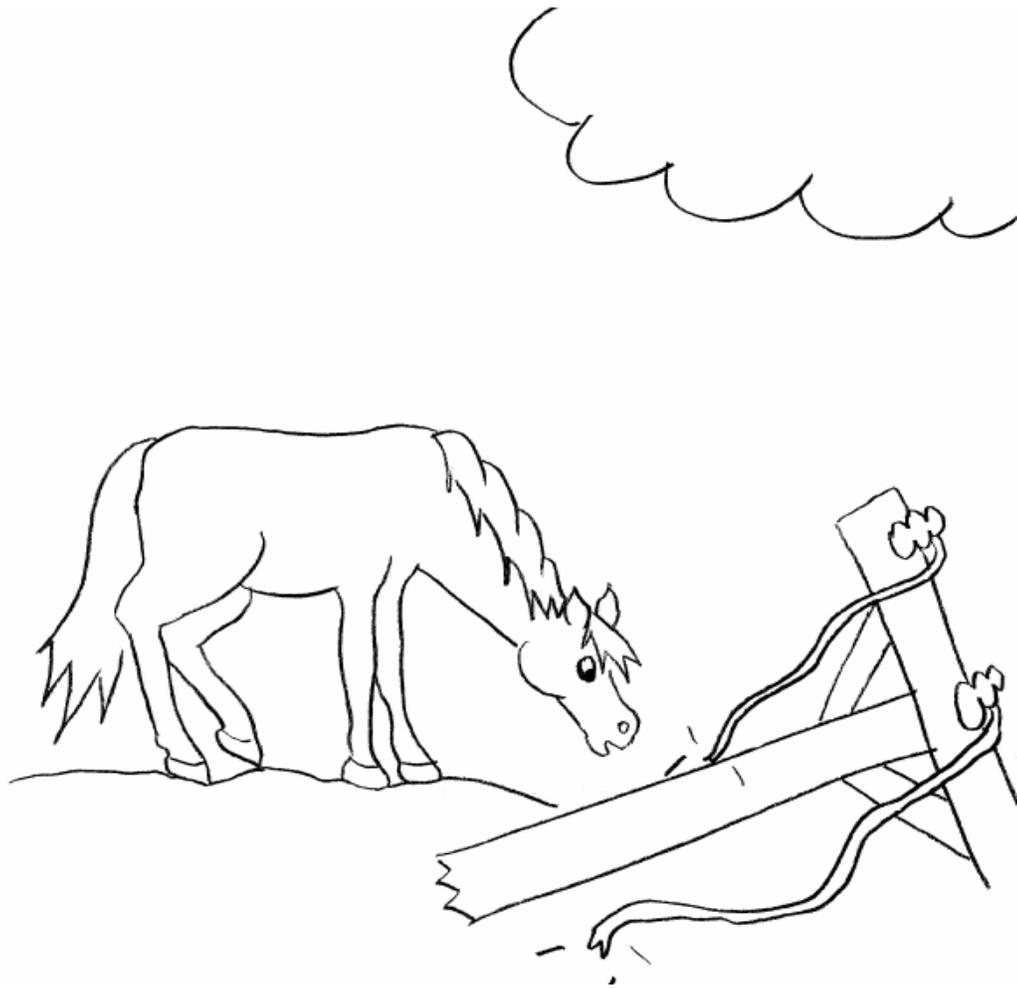
Since earthquakes can happen at any time of the day, Toby said that if I was in bed sleeping and we had an earthquake that I should stay there and pull the covers over my head to help protect me.



Toby said that he and his family have a Family Disaster Plan and Disaster Supplies Kit, just like my family does! He said that they all talk about their plan a couple of times a year so everyone remembers what to do in a disaster, because sometimes when things get scary we forget how to stay safe.



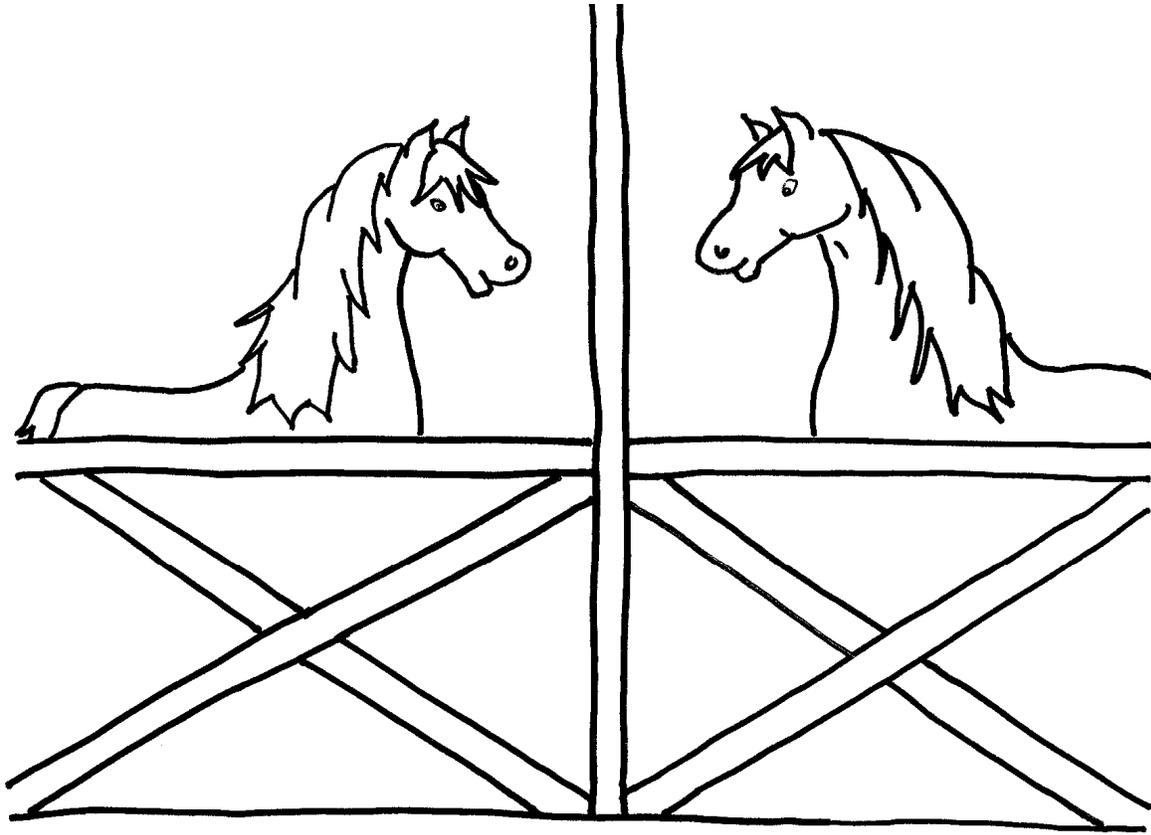
Toby even has a battery-operated all-hazards radio to listen to for emergency information - just like I have at home! We both know how important it is to listen to the radio so we know what areas to avoid and what to do or where to go if we can't stay in our house.



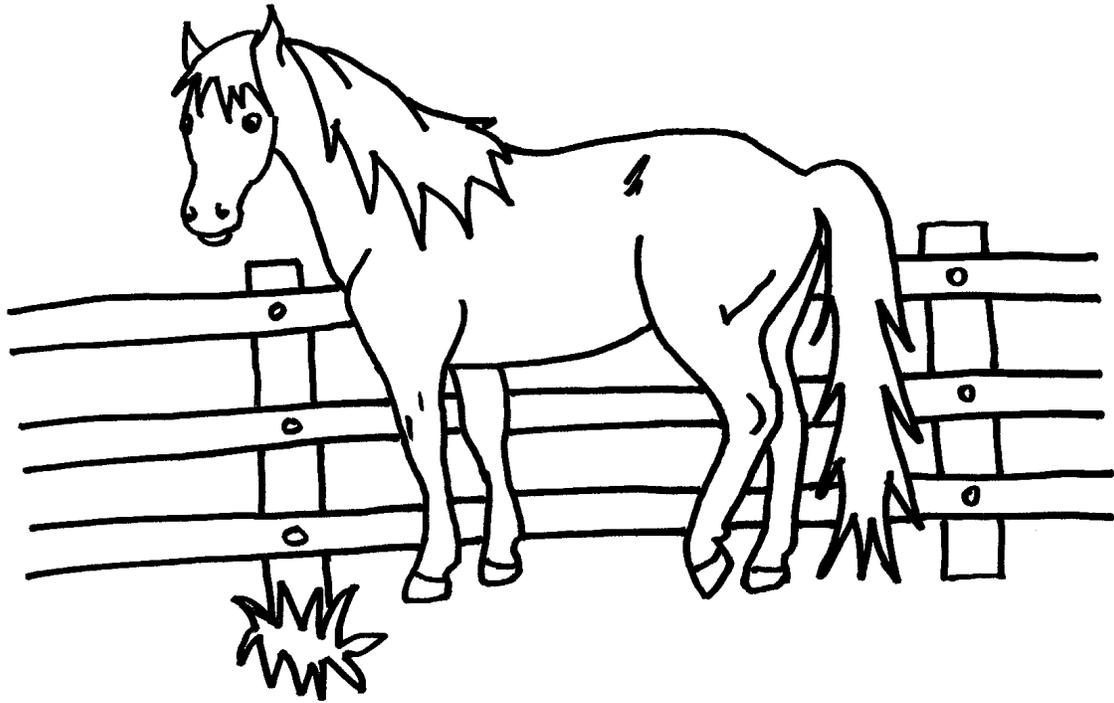
Toby said that even after we get the "all clear" that we should stay away from damaged areas because you never know what dangerous things might be out there, like broken glass or power lines that have fallen over.



Toby also said that sometimes after an earthquake the ground shakes again, but usually not as hard. This is called an aftershock. Aftershocks can cause more things to fall down and you should Drop, Cover and Hold if you feel one, just like you would during an earthquake.



Even though the earthquake was scary, Toby taught me so much about it that now I know what to do to stay safe. I can't wait to tell my friends back home about what to do in an earthquake too, because you never know when they might go on a trip where they might feel an earthquake.



I hope you learned how to stay safe in an earthquake like I did. Maybe Toby even taught you something too!

**Credits:**

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