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Tokyo Buildings Stand up to Quake

Over the weekend much of the world gazed horrifically at the sights coming out of Japan in the wake of the 8.9 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunamis. One of the amazing and hopeful sights was to see that the buildings in Tokyo and other cities lived up to the “bend but don’t break” motto.

Shocking [video](#) taken shows that the buildings did just as designed and withstood the earth’s movement. Japan is an area of the world that has dealt with numerous earthquakes in its past, therefore has adapted very stringent building codes. These undoubtedly saved lives this weekend.

Apparently, in [1979 and 2000](#) Japan made monumental changes in its building codes which made buildings all the more safe. Buildings built after these changes even advertise as to higher safety and citizens pay a higher premium to live there.

[Engineering experts](#) say that the buildings performed just as designed. Some are designed to sway just as a tall tree in the wind. The foundations of skyscrapers are constructed upon steel and rubber shock absorbers which allow for the buildings to move along with the earth.

The [New York Times](#) posted a very informative article on how the Japanese government has made attempts to prevent disaster effects and make its citizens safer.

Strict building codes are in place for a reason and governments should constantly be looking for new technology to help make our lives safer and more efficient. For earthquake prone areas like the U.S. west coast, the weekend events should be a big learning lesson.

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