

6.5 Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment and Contents

6.5.3 Computer and Communication Equipment

6.5.3.3 Desktop Computers and Accessories

Computers, printers, monitors, projectors, scanners and other electronic equipment are found nearly everywhere, most of them resting on desks and tables without restraint.

Typical Causes of Damage

- Desktop items may slide, tip, collide with other items or fall. If one item falls, the cords and cables may pull other items down resulting in additional damage.
- Equipment may suffer internal damage and be rendered inoperable. Business interruption losses may result.

DAMAGE EXAMPLES



Figure 6.5.3.3-1 Computer monitor slid off desktop onto floor in the 2010 magnitude-6.5 Eureka, California Earthquake (Photo courtesy of Steve Mahin, PEER).



Figure 6.5.3.3-2 Damage to control tower at the SeaTac Airport in the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake (Photo courtesy of JCP Geologists).

Seismic Mitigation Considerations

- Desktop equipment should be anchored or tethered to prevent earthquake damage, loss of equipment and loss of electronic files. The supporting desk, table or cart should also be anchored or tethered if movement could cause additional damage. Alternatively, cables and cords should be installed with sufficient slack to allow for some movement.
- Many proprietary safety fasteners are currently available to use to restrain desktop items. See also Section 6.5.6.2 for tether details.

MITIGATION DETAILS

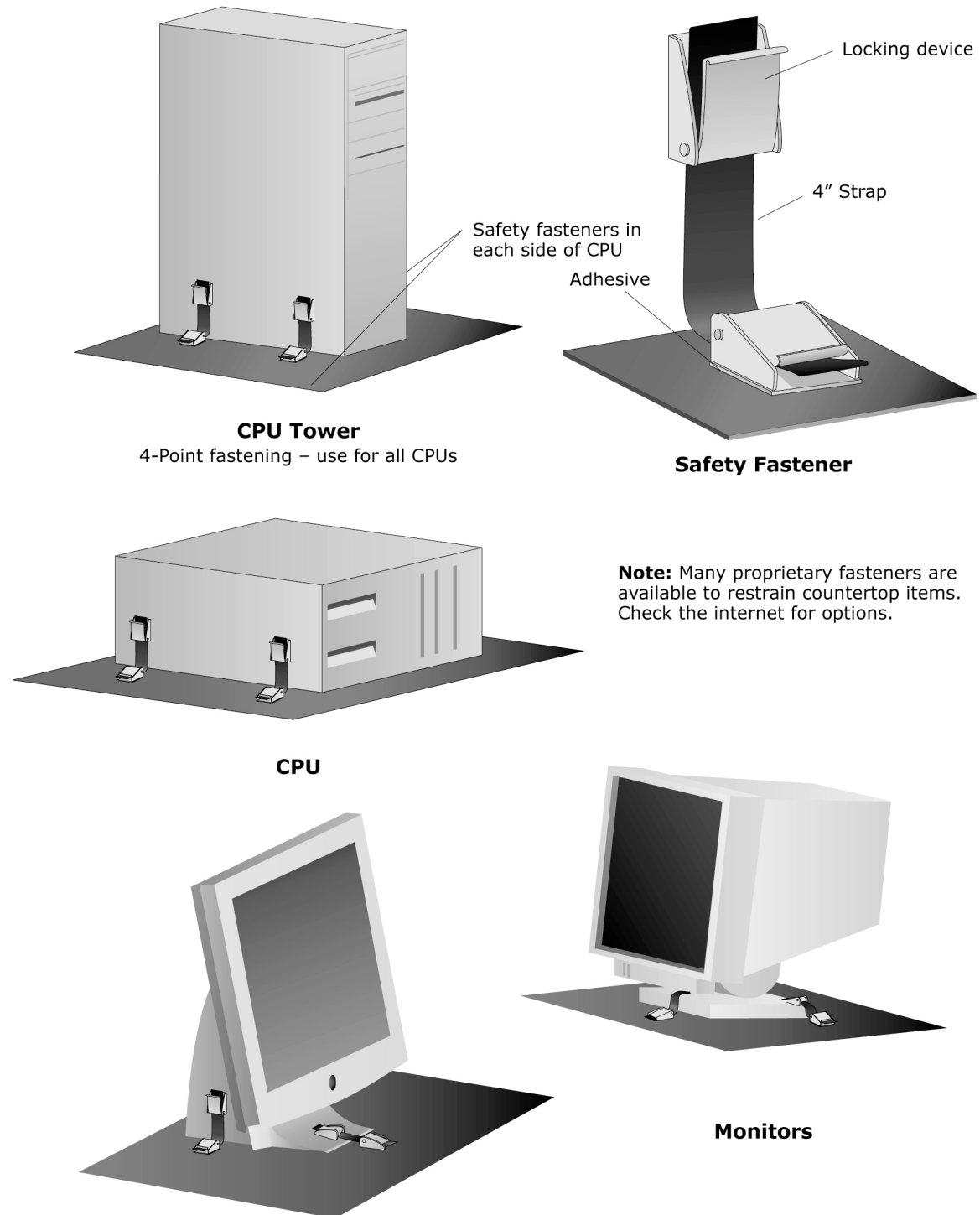


Figure 6.5.3.3-3 Desktop computers and accessories (NE).