

ATTACHMENT B TO EARTHQUAKE PLAN
SAMPLE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS

A. NEWS RELEASE: Things You Can Do After the Earthquake

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed there has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**, and the danger may not be over. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division indicates there may be aftershocks causing more shaking. If the earthquake has damaged your neighborhood, here are some things you should remember to do:

- ☐ Try to remain calm and avoid using the telephone unless you contact emergency services.
- ☐ Put on sturdy shoes or boots to protect your feet from debris and provide ankle support.
- ☐ Store water in a bathtub or large container and sterilize water that wasn't bottled before using it.
- ☐ If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company. If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.
- ☐ Clean up broken glass, medicines, and flammable liquids.
- ☐ Take a few moments to rest every hour or so, and consider what you're going to do next.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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B. NEWS RELEASE: Things NOT To Do After the Earthquake

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed there has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**, and the danger may not be over; there may be aftershocks causing more shaking. If the earthquake has damaged your neighborhood, here are some things official sources warn you **not** to do:

- ☐ If you think there might be a gas leak, do not switch the lights on or off. If you need more light, use flashlights instead of matches, lighters or candles. A spark or open flame could start a fire or cause an explosion.
- ☐ Do not use the telephone unless you are calling emergency services.
- ☐ Do not waste water.

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- ❑ Do not go sightseeing; you could risk injury or interfere with emergency workers.
- ❑ Do not forget that strong aftershocks are possible at any time.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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C. NEWS RELEASE: First Steps at Home

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--A strong earthquake has hit **(Location)**. Officials from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division suggest you do the following if you are at home:

- ❑ Check on your family members. Make sure you know where each member is and their condition. Render any needed first aid you can until help arrives.
- ❑ Use a fire extinguisher to put out small fires. Don't use water on electrical or gas fires. If you can't put the fire out quickly, get everyone out of the area right away.
- ❑ If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company. If you turn off the gas for any reason, a professional must turn it back on.
- ❑ Inspect your home's foundation, walls, and chimneys. Look for signs of structural instability that could lead to potential collapse.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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D. NEWS RELEASE: More Steps at Home

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed there has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**, and the danger may not be over. There may be aftershocks causing more shaking. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division is offering the following advice to people in the affected area:

- ❑ If you are safe where you are, your best bet is to stay there.
- ❑ Share any first aid and safety tips you know of with others.
- ❑ Offer help to the people around you, your family, neighbors and coworkers.

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- ❑ Isolate flammable liquids and other hazardous materials as much as possible without risking yourself.
- ❑ Check your surroundings for fire hazards and remove any materials that may cause a fire to start or to spread.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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E. NEWS RELEASE: Next Steps at Home

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--A strong earthquake has hit **(Location)**. Officials from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division suggest you should do the following if you are at home:

- ❑ If you're in a safe place right now, stay there if you can. The earthquake danger may not be over yet...there could be strong aftershocks.
- ❑ If you're at home and there's no immediate sign of collapse, fire, or gas leaks, it's time to take a closer look at your utility connections.
- ❑ Turn off any appliance that was on when the earthquake, hit and check it for damage.
- ❑ Check your water heater. If it fell over in the earthquake, it may have broken a gas, electric, or water line.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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F. NEWS RELEASE: Stay Clear of Unstable Structures

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed there has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**, and the danger may not be over. There may be aftershocks causing more shaking, and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division is advising people to stay clear of unstable structures.

- ❑ If it is safe where you are right now, you are encouraged to remain there. Do not go outside unless the building you are in is unstable.
- ❑ If the shaking starts again, take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture or by an inside wall away from windows and top-heavy objects. You should keep your head and neck covered with your arms until the shaking stops.

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- ❑ If you're outdoors when an aftershock begins, stay in the open away from buildings, signs, and overhead wires.
- ❑ Officials are assessing the situation to determine the extent of damage, and if the danger has passed. Residents are encouraged to remain calm and offer assistance to neighbors until help arrives.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

--END--

G. NEWS RELEASE: Flashlights Save Lives

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--A strong earthquake has hit **(Location)**. Officials at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division have consulted with seismologists, who indicate the initial threat from the earthquake apparently has passed. Now is the time to survey your surroundings to determine damage, especially to utilities.

- ❑ If you smell or hear leaking gas, open your windows and get everyone out of the building right away. If you smell smoke, or the structure is in flames, get everyone out of the area immediately.
- ❑ If you think there might be a gas leak, do not switch lights on or off. **If you need more light, use flashlights instead of matches, lighters, or candles.** A spark or open flame could start a fire or cause an explosion.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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H. NEWS RELEASE: On The Road

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--A strong earthquake has hit **(Location)**. Officials from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division have been advised that aftershocks could follow the earthquake. The Division is advising people who must travel to take the following precautions:

- ❑ It is best to stay off the roads right now, but if you must drive and the shaking starts again, pull over and stop in the first safe place you can find away from overpasses, power lines, and overhanging signs.
- ❑ If you're on a bridge or an overpass, keep moving - carefully - until you're off the bridge, then look for a safe place to stop until the shaking is over.

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- ❑ Once you stop, turn off the engine and set the parking brake. Stay inside your car and keep your seatbelt on.
- ❑ If a power line falls on the vehicle, call 911, stay inside the vehicle, and wait to exit until an emergency worker removes the wire.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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I. NEWS RELEASE: Restrict Telephone Usage

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--A strong earthquake has hit **(Location)**. Officials from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division have been advised that aftershocks could follow the earthquake. The Division is asking the public to use telephones only for critical communication.

- ❑ The police and fire departments know about the earthquake and are responding to the most serious problems first. Please try not to use the telephone, including your cell phone, unless you are reporting a life-threatening injury or a fire.
- ❑ Unnecessary calls to report the earthquake or to report minor damage could keep life-saving calls from getting through. It is important to locate your friends and family members, but it may be best to wait until the initial confusion has passed.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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J. NEWS RELEASE: Food

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed here has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division is advising the public that although there may be aftershocks causing more shaking, it is not dangerous to consume food at this time. Nevertheless, because of the potential for aftershocks, the public should plan meals carefully.

- ❑ If your power is out, eat the perishable foods and other food in your refrigerator first, then the food from your freezer. You should consider keeping canned goods and nonperishable foods until other stocks are consumed.
- ❑ Unless you're sure your gas and electric connections are safe, cooking outside on a propane grill, a charcoal grill, or a camping stove is advised. Remember that those are only for use outdoors.

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Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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K. NEWS RELEASE: Water Storage

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed there has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**, and the danger may not be over. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division has been advised that aftershocks could follow the earthquake causing more shaking. The SC Emergency Management Division is advising people to store water.

If your area has suffered earthquake damage, now is the time to store water for later use. Water and sewer services may be interrupted for some time, and it is important you make the best use of the water available.

- ☐ Fill your bathtub and any other large clean containers you have on hand.
- ☐ If your water heater is undamaged, the water inside it will be useful for drinking and cooking.
- ☐ If the water in the storage tank of your toilet is clear, you may be able to use that, as well, but you should not use water from the bowl.
- ☐ Plan on sterilizing any water that isn't already bottled. You can sterilize water by boiling it for five minutes or by adding three or four drops of liquid chlorine laundry bleach per quart, and letting the mixture stand for half an hour.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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L. NEWS RELEASE: How You Can Help

Columbia, S.C. (Date/Time)--Seismologists have confirmed there has been a strong earthquake in the area of **(Location)**, and the danger may not be over. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division has been advised that aftershocks could follow the earthquake causing more shaking. Nevertheless, people in the affected areas can help.

- ☐ Police, firefighters, and medics are dealing with the worst of the earthquake problems. If your area is damaged, check in with your family, neighbors, or co-workers. Offer what first aid and assistance you can until emergency workers arrive.

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- ❑ You should remember that small children, individuals with special needs, and the elderly might require special attention and reassurance, even if they seem uninjured. Offer any encouragement you can and assure them that the authorities are aware of the situation and will be in the area soon.

Stay tuned to your local broadcast station for additional information from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.

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M. IPAWS: Earthquake Warning

360:

From South Carolina Emergency Management Division. An EARTHQUAKE occurred in [LOCATION]. Aftershocks may occur. If you feel shaking, DROP to the ground, COVER your head and neck, and HOLD onto something sturdy. Call [NUMBER] if you or others are injured or have an emergency. Tune into local media and go to scemd.org for updates.

90:

EARTHQUAKE in [LOCATION]. Aftershocks may occur. Drop, Cover, and Hold. Scemd.org for more

EAS:

This is a message from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. An earthquake has occurred in [LOCATION] at [TIME]. Be prepared for aftershocks. If you feel shaking, drop to the ground, cover your head and neck, and hold onto something sturdy. If you are driving when shaking starts again, pull over and stop in the first safe place you can find away from overpasses, downed powerlines, and overhanging signs. Once you stop, stay inside your vehicle.

Do not leave your home after the shaking has stopped. There is a high risk of injury or death from being struck by falling objects, electrocution from downed power lines, and fires from broken gas lines. Avoid anything that could fall including shelving, lighting fixtures, and furniture. Check for and report gas leaks. If you smell gas, open a window and leave the building immediately.

Call or text [PHONE NUMBER] if you or others are injured, trapped, or have an emergency. Tune in to local media or go to www.scemd.org for more information and updates.

N. IPAWS: Broken Gas Lines

360:

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From South Carolina Emergency Management Division. An EARTHQUAKE has occurred resulting in a BROKEN GAS LINE in [LOCATION] at [TIME]. LEAVE NOW! If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, quickly leave the building. Go to [UTILITY COMPANY] or www.scemd.org for more information and updates.

Option 2:

From South Carolina Emergency Management Division. An EARTHQUAKE has occurred resulting in a BROKEN GAS LINE in [LOCATION] at [TIME]. LEAVE NOW! Do not switch lights on or off. If you need more light, use flashlights. A spark or open flame could start a fire or cause an explosion. Go to [UTILITY COMPANY] or www.scemd.org for more info/updates.

90:

An EARTHQUAKE has resulted in a BROKEN GAS LINE. LEAVE NOW! [UTILITY COMPANY LINK] for updates.

EAS:

This is a message from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. An EARTHQUAKE has caused a BROKEN GAS LINE in [LOCATION]. Leave the area of [LOCATION] immediately. Do not switch the lights on or off. If you need more light, use flashlights instead of matches, lighters or candles. A spark or open flame could start a fire or cause an explosion. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building.

[UTILITY COMPANY] is aware of the gas main break and is working to restore it. The estimated restoration time for the gas line is [DATE] at [TIME] at the earliest. For more information go to [UTILITY COMPANY LINK] or www.scemd.org for updates.

O. IPAWS: Bridge Collapse

360:

South Carolina Emergency Management Division: a BRIDGE COLLAPSE has occurred at [LOCATION] causing road closures and traffic delays. AVOID area around [LOCATION] and FIND alternate routes until further notice. Go to scemd.org for updates and alternate routes.

90:

BRIDGE COLLAPSE at [LOCATION]. AVOID area and FIND alternates routes. Go to scemd.org

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EAS:

This is a message from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. A bridge has collapsed at [LOCATION]. Avoid the area and use alternate routes, as traffic delays and road closures will continue until further notice. Go to www.scemd.org for more information.