

ATTACHMENT D 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 in touch with the people around you.
- Stay off the telephone unless you are contacting 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:

- Do not use matches, lighters, or candles until you are sure there are no gas leaks.
- Do not use the telephone unless you are calling emergency services.
- Do not waste water.

- ❑ 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. Apply 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 and listen for any signs of possible 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.
- ❑ Discuss any first aid and safety tips you know of with others.

- ❑ Offer help to the people around you, your family, neighbors and coworkers.
- ❑ Isolate flammable liquids and other hazardous materials as much as possible without risking yourself.
- ❑ Check your surroundings for fire, and remove any materials that may cause them to spread.
- ❑ If you must move from where you are now, leave a note on the front door to tell family and emergency workers know where you have gone.

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.
- ❑ 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.

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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.
- ❑ Once you stop, stay inside your car.
- ❑ 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.

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.

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 has damage, check in with your family, neighbors, or co-workers. Offer what first aid and assistance you can until emergency workers arrive.
- 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 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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