
Emergency Management Plan

Section 7

7-4 Earthquake Plan

June 2006



Blank Intentionally

I. Introduction

This plan is subordinate to the Horry County Emergency Management Plan and is to be used in conjunction with each relative section of the EMP. This plan establishes specific procedures to be followed in the event of an earthquake incident in Horry County.

II. Situation and Assumptions:

- A. Horry County is located in the northeastern portion of South Carolina and encompasses 1,160 square miles. The soil in the county is general a sandy mix and is vulnerable to liquefaction.
- B. Horry County is close to a major fault line. This fault line produced the largest historic earthquake in eastern North America in 1886.
- C. The effects of this event in Horry County had an intensity of a 7 according to the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.
- D. Catastrophic damage is expected in the event of another earthquake of this magnitude.
- E. Communications systems are expected to be significantly damaged or overloaded.

III. Concept of Operations

- A. General Concepts
 - 1. Response and coordination of action will be in accordance with the Horry County Emergency Management Plan.
 - 2. Coordinate workable communications links to responders.
 - 3. Coordinate state and federal agencies
 - 4. Provide technical support through Fire/Rescue Search and Rescue teams
- B. Operational Issues:
 - 1. In the event of an earthquake and communications is lost or not functioning well, agency representatives are to report directly to the EOC as soon as possible.
 - 2. Immediately insure that appropriate emergency response agencies have been dispatched to the affected areas to provide assistance to the injured, perform rescues, and provide damage assessment. Depending on the magnitude, outside assistance may be requested to assist with rescue, care to the injured, security, damage assessment, disaster assistance, and temporary sheltering.

3. The Horry County Public Information Officer will immediately begin providing precautionary safety information to the general public. This information will be taken from existing safety procedures. Other general information on affected areas, sheltering, and anything to assist the affected population will be disseminated through the Public Information Officer (PIO). Public information will be vital to the citizens of the county after an earthquake.
4. Evacuation, evacuation routes, sheltering of evacuees will be determined at the time, based on the location of the quake, areas effected, and passable routes and bridges.
5. Sheltering will be done locally if possible, in accordance with information outlined in the Basic EOP and ESF 6. Shelter locations will be determined based on conditions of buildings and availability of electricity. In the event out of county sheltering is needed, it will be requested through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.
6. After affected areas are determined safe, damage assessment will be accomplished.

IV. Plan Development and Maintenance

This plan addresses specific procedures to follow in the event of an earthquake impacting Horry County. The Horry County Emergency Management Director will review and update this plan on an annual basis.