

## 2.726 EARTHQUAKE

### 2.726.02 Assumptions

- A. The US and Maryland Geologic Surveys both acknowledge that while strong earthquakes are unusual in Maryland, the state occasionally experiences perceptible earthquakes.
  - 1. Portions of Maryland are considered to be at moderate risk for earthquake damage.
  - 2. The Baltimore metropolitan area is predicted to have a minor relative risk of damage.
  - 3. A catastrophic earthquake in the Central US New Madrid Seismic Zone could cause some damage in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.
- B. Positive determinations of earthquake activity can be observed through the [USGS Earthquake Hazards Program](#).
- C. The agency's response and recovery responsibilities as the result of earthquakes is established in TU Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) **2.03 Response and Recovery Responsibilities and Matrices**.
- D. Earthquakes will most likely be TU EOP **Type 4 or 5 Incidents**.

### 2.726.04 Plan

- A. Most earthquake activity felt in this area would not require any responses by this agency.
- B. Considerations for earthquakes requiring agency response include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. People in high-rise buildings who cannot quickly get out should get under desks, tables, etc. or move against interior walls and protect their heads with their arms;
  - 2. Elevators should not be used;
  - 3. Sprinkler and alarm systems may activate;
  - 4. Windows may dislodge, break, and fall;
  - 5. Earthquakes may cause mass casualty and HAZMAT incidents;
  - 6. People outside should move to clear areas and away from buildings, trees, signs, overhead wires, etc.;
  - 7. Bring vehicles to a stop, but stay inside until the shaking stops. Avoid bridges, underpasses, tall buildings, and tall structures that could fall or topple;
  - 8. Fire and rescue departments will most likely take the lead in a unified command setting;
  - 9. Notifications must be made to command staff;
  - 10. Officers must be alert for, and prepared to:
    - a. Respond to injured persons and fires, fire hazards, utility damage, etc;
    - b. Plan responses to aftershocks;
    - c. Assist evacuating buildings when safe to do so;
    - d. Keep people from reentering buildings until permission has been granted from the Incident Commander;
    - e. Establish and maintain perimeters; and
    - f. Prevent looting.