



DeBordieu Colony Community Association

# PROPERTY OWNER'S GUIDE TO EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS



**be PREPARED**

**be READY**

**be INFORMED**





## **EARTHQUAKES**

Despite occurring infrequently on the East Coast, earthquakes strike without warning and can affect areas far from their epicenter. In South Carolina, 10 to 30 earthquakes are recorded annually; two to five significant earthquakes are felt each year. The destructive impact of an earthquake is greatly influenced by the type of soil in a particular area. Buildings located in marshy, sandy, or artificially filled-in land are much more susceptible to damage from the waves generated by an earthquake than those built on bedrock. DeBordieu Colony is comprised of these sandy, marshy soils, and could expect significant amplification of forces transmitted by a nearby earthquake.

### **WHAT TO DO DURING AN EARTHQUAKE:**

**DROP down onto your hands and knees** (before the earthquake knocks you down). This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.

**COVER your head and neck** (and your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk. If there is no shelter nearby, *only then* should you get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

**HOLD ON to your shelter** (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

**Indoors:** Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops. If you are not near a desk or table, drop to the floor against the interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances, and kitchen cabinets with heavy objects or glass. Do not go outside!

**In bed:** If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor has caused injury to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to doorways.

**Outdoors:** Move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards.

- **Driving:** Pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.



### **DURING THE EARTHQUAKE**

Protect yourself in the safest place possible without having to move far - no matter your limitations, you need to protect yourself to the extent possible. Do NOT try to get out of the building during an earthquake! You could be injured by people attempting to leave the building or falling debris during the earthquake. You should Drop under a piece of furniture or position yourself against an interior wall. Take Cover under a desk or table if possible, and protect your head and neck with one arm/hand. Hold On to a desk or furniture leg to keep it from shifting or uncovering you until the shaking completely stops. Learn more at [www.DropCoverHoldOn.org](http://www.DropCoverHoldOn.org)

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

FEMA – <http://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>

Red Cross – <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/earthquake>

US Geological Survey – <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/preparedness.php>