

## CofC Shakeout

Because many people don't know what to do during an earthquake – or what they think they're supposed to do is wrong – the College of Charleston will be participating in the national earthquake drill known as ShakeOut. The drill is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, at 10:15 a.m. However, if it isn't convenient for your department to participate in the drill on that date, we encourage you to discuss what to do if an earthquake occurs, or discuss appropriate measures, at a more convenient time. This is a matter of safety for every member of the College of Charleston community.

Representatives of the South Carolina Earthquake Education and Preparedness (SCEEP) team from the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences will be happy to lead discussions in your department. They can be available for five minutes up to an hour. Contact [scearthquakes@cofc.edu](mailto:scearthquakes@cofc.edu) to schedule a meeting.

*Note: Because of time constraints, SCEEP cannot speak to your classes.*

**Remember: South Carolina ranks sixth in the U.S. as a potential earthquake hazard zone.**

### Suggestions for CofC ShakeOut 2015

**At a departmental meeting, do one of the activities listed below** (if you do not have a meeting scheduled, circulate information to your faculty).

1. Take the South Carolina Earthquake Quiz (pg. 3) as a group. Discuss the answers.
2. Discuss concerns that directly affect your department/location. For example:
  - Do you have dangerous chemicals that may fall during an earthquake?
  - Is your building full of students that will need help evacuating AFTER THE SHAKING STOPS?
  - Do you have a lot of breakable glass that could pose a hazard?
  - Are you in multi-story building where the stairs may fail?
  - Do you have an earthquake plan – even something as simple as: after an earthquake everyone in the department should meet in the grassy area behind the library to be accounted for before doing anything else.
  - How you will know who was on campus at the time of the quake and who was not?
  - Who will be in charge of maintaining a list of people in your department and how to get in touch with them?
  - What will your role be after an earthquake?
3. Ask each employee to think about what they would do during an earthquake in each room they are in on a regular basis.
4. Do an earthquake drill! Drop, cover and hold on
5. Do not run outside and do not get in a doorway.

6. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture or next to an interior wall.

*Note: Statistics show that people who **move more than 10 feet** from their original position during an earthquake are much more likely to be injured or killed.*

Discuss if and how your department will be participating in the national shakeout drill on Thursday, Oct 15.

### **Special Note for Academic Departments**

Imagine teaching a class and suddenly the ground starts shaking violently, students are screaming, windows are breaking, the ceiling tiles begin to fall. You look out into your classroom and see 30 students panicking and running for the door, they are falling over each other, falling over the desks, bookcases are falling on them, glass from the windows is showering them, and some are getting trampled.

### **How do you avoid this scenario?**

- Take a moment in class between October 12 and 23 to talk about what to do in the event of an earthquake and specifically what you expect them to do: Drop, cover, and hold on.
- In classrooms that have tables and desks, have the students take cover under a desk. In rooms without sufficient, sturdy tables, ask them to move away from the windows, move as close to the interior walls as possible, and drop to the floor and cover their heads.

**Remember: Moving more than 10 feet from your original position greatly increases your chance of injury or death! But moving towards an interior wall can help save you.**

## **Special Note**

### **Participation Contest**

The SCEEP team at the College of Charleston Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences and the College of Charleston's Emergency Management team are inviting all departments (academic and administrative), student groups and athletic teams to participate in the drill by submitting a photo of them participating in the earthquake drill. The best submissions will win a prize; the winning photos will be posted on the website.

Additional educational materials may be found at:

- [South Carolina Earthquake Education and Preparedness Program Website - SCEEP](#)
- [South Carolina Earthquake Primer](#)

## Earthquake Safety Quiz

**1. During an earthquake, the safest place is in a doorway.**

True or false?

**False.** The safest place is under a desk or table or tucked against inside wall.

**2. Running outside during an earthquake can save your life.**

True or false?

**False.** People who move more than 10 feet during an earthquake are statistically more likely to be killed or injured.

**3. Unlike hurricanes, earthquakes can't be predicted.**

True or false?

**True.** While scientists can generally predict the areas that are more prone to earthquakes, they can't predict when an earthquake will occur.

**4. The small, ongoing earthquakes along the fault that generated the 1886 earthquake mean the big one is going to happen soon.**

True or false?

**False.** The small earthquakes tell us that we are at risk of a big earthquake, but don't tell us when it will occur.

**5. Keeping your hurricane kit stocked and ready year-round is a good way to prepare for an earthquake.**

True or false?

**True.** The earliest that outside help is likely to arrive is 72 to 96 hours after the quake occurs. Being prepared could save your life.

**6. Everyone should hold an earthquake drill.**

True or false?

**True.** Knowing that you should drop, cover and hold on during an earthquake could save your life.

For more information on South Carolina Earthquakes, visit the South Carolina Earthquake Education and Preparedness (SCEEP) webpage at [scearthquakes@cofc.edu](mailto:scearthquakes@cofc.edu).

For more information on earthquake safety and the national earthquake drill (ShakeOut), go to: [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org)

Earthquake questions will be answered by College of Charleston geology faculty at: [scearthquakes@cofc.edu](mailto:scearthquakes@cofc.edu)

