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 for 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.