

ANNEX J – EARTHQUAKES

I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

Most of Arizona is in Seismic Risk Area Two and can expect MODERATE damage as a result of an earthquake. Of all natural disasters, earthquakes can inflict the greatest loss of life and property and require the greatest mustering of resources to mitigate their effects. See **Annex J, Appendix 1**, Seismic Zone Map.

B. Assumptions

1. Town of Thatcher may experience the effects of earthquakes and they may occur without warning.
2. There may be secondary effects of fire and disruption of gas, water and electrical distribution systems.
3. After-shocks may seriously hamper recovery efforts.
4. There may be a need for law enforcement, fire fighting, search and rescue, mass shelter, increased medical services, food and water distribution, emergency utilities, evacuation and damage assessment.

II. MISSION

To ensure a rapid response at the disaster area in order to minimize loss of life and initiate prompt recovery efforts.

III. EXECUTION

A. Concept of Operations

Earthquakes present a unique challenge to emergency responders. There is usually no warning and it is difficult to ascertain the area involved and extent of damage. Two critical tasks must be performed immediately following an earthquake to ensure the most effective operations by emergency response personnel.

1. The Police Department must perform a rapid survey of the Town and report the results.
2. A status check on all emergency forces and equipment should be completed as soon as possible. Emergency personnel must be prepared to conduct emergency communications on a unit to unit basis (relay if needed) because communications

equipment may be inoperative.

3. Once an overall picture of the area and extent of damage emerges, resources can be deployed where they are most needed. Emergency units must avoid free-lance responding. An overall assessment must occur to effectively direct response forces.
4. The results of the rapid survey will indicate the need for activating the EOP and EOC. In general, the quicker this is accomplished, the better the emergency response outcome will be.

B. Organization

Significant earthquakes will likely require the full Town Emergency Organization. Refer to the Basic Plan and Annex A, Direction and Control.

C. Tasks

See **Basic Plan, III D, "Tasks"**. Also, **Annex A, Direction and Control**.

IV. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

Standard emergency administration and supply procedures will be used. See **Basic Plan** and **Annex A, Direction and Control**.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

Refer to **Annex A, Direction and Control**

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APPENDIX 1 - Seismic Zone Map of Arizona

- ZONE 1 Minor damage; distant earthquakes may cause damage to structures with fundamental periods greater than 1.0 second; corresponds to intensities V and VI of the M.M.* Scale.
- ZONE 2 Moderate damage; corresponds to intensity VII of the M.M.* Scale.
- ZONE 3 Major damage; corresponds to intensity VIII of the M.M.* Scale.
- ZONE 4 Those areas within Zone No. 3 determined by the proximity to certain major fault systems.*

Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of 1931