

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AN EARTHQUAKE

1. You are on your own. Do not count on your strata council or management company for assistance.
2. There is not a supply of food, water, blankets or other survival provisions stored anywhere on the property. You are on your own.
3. If there is natural gas service to your strata corporation there is no plan for shutting off the gas supply.
4. There are no arrangements for alternate living quarters if you are unable to return to your strata lot. You are on your own.
5. Depending on the severity of the earthquake, you may not be able to telephone/email the management company for assistance.
6. The contents of your strata lot, your automobile(s) and other personal property are not insured by the strata corporation. If you have made improvements to your strata lot, such improvements or betterments are not insured by the strata corporation either.
7. The strata corporation is insured for earthquake damage; HOWEVER, there is a deductible which means that there is no coverage for damages within that deductible. Generally the deductible is 10% of the value of the strata corporation although in some instances (ie. Richmond) the deductible could be 15% or 20% of the value of the property. In most cases this will amount to millions of dollars. Your strata corporation does not have reserve funds available to meet such a huge deductible. Repairs will have to be funded by one or more special levies. These could be substantial.
8. There is NO government plan or fund to assist either you or your strata corporation. You are on your own.

While it would be nice to hear that there are plans and that there is a safety net, your strata council and VCS bring you the above information in an effort to alert you to the reality of an earthquake scenario. Accordingly, you need to develop your own personal plans for survival. Like many people, you will not be adequately prepared and that is "human nature". Please remember, however, that "You are on your own" is the only rule that counts.

For further information, visit the following websites:

Ministry of Energy & Mines (Gov. of BC)

<http://www.em.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geosurv/Surficial/quake/>

Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/earthquake_preparedness.html

City of Vancouver Emergency Preparedness

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/corpsvcs/emerg/prepyourself/earthquaketips.htm>

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/corpsvcs/emerg/nepp/NEPPworkshops.htm>