

Hazard Event Information



Photo of the Charleston
Earthquake of 1886

- The Charleston Area experiences about what number of earthquakes on average per year?

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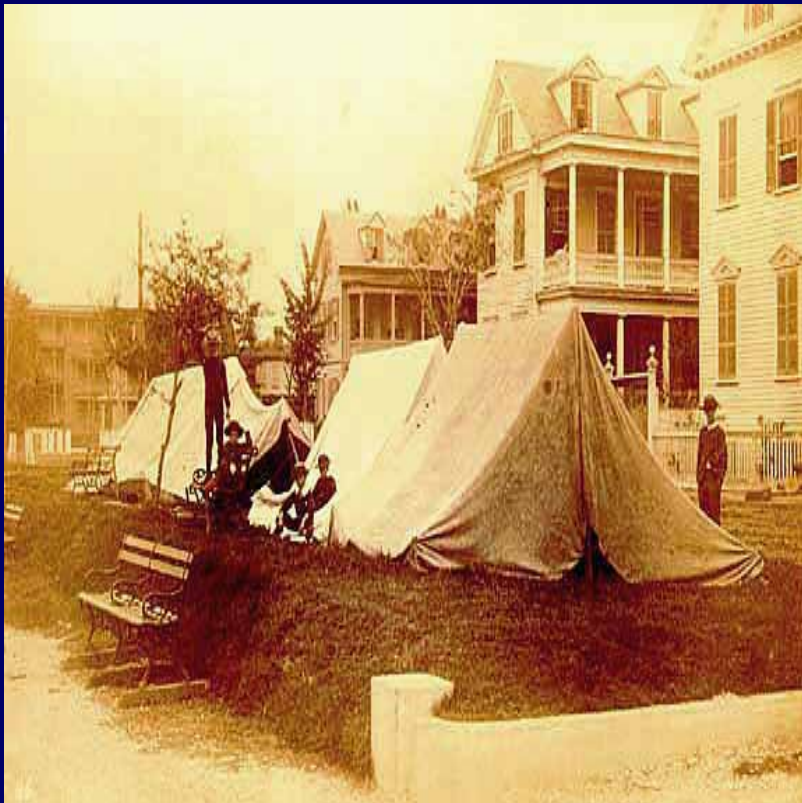
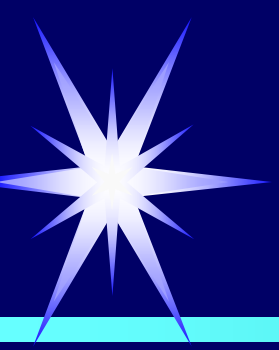


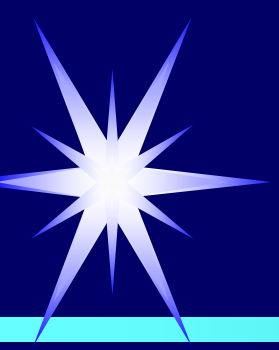
Photo of the Charleston
Earthquake of 1886

- The Charleston Area experiences about **15** earthquakes per year on average.



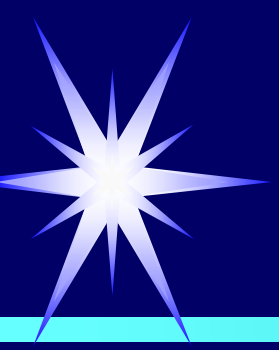
Earthquake Preparation

- Anchor tall furniture, file cabinets, water heater, hanging lamps, etc. against falling
- Have a portable fire extinguisher
- Keep an emergency kit (water, non-perishable food, flashlight, portable radio, batteries, baby and pet supplies, first aid kit, etc.)
- Keep breakables in a low and secure cabinet



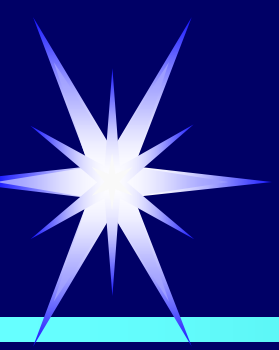
During an Earthquake

- If indoors, stay indoors; if outdoors, stay outdoors
- Crawl under a sturdy table or stand in a doorway if no door is attached
- Stay away from brick chimneys or brick veneer walls



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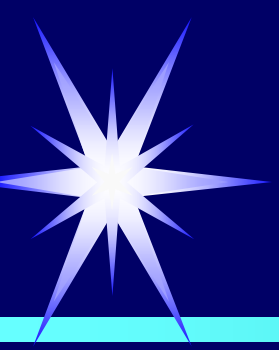
- Which type of hazard event experienced in the Charleston area can reach the highest wind speeds?



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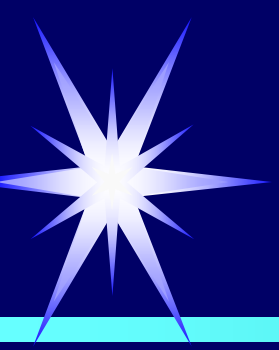


- **Tornadoes potentially** have the highest wind speeds, that can exceed **over 300 miles per hour.**
- Tornadoes in Charleston do **not** usually have this high of wind speeds.



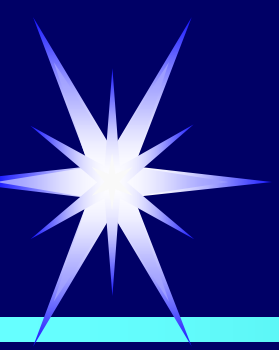
During a Tornado

- Quickly get inside of a sturdy building (not a mobile structure) away from windows
- Sit facing the wall, using hands to cover the back of the head and neck (don't sit sideways against a wall)
- Listen to the weather radio for when it is safe to leave the building
- Do not hide under overpasses or try to out-run a tornado



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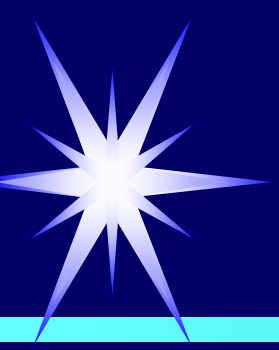
- **What is the most frequent type of natural hazard event experienced in the Charleston area?**



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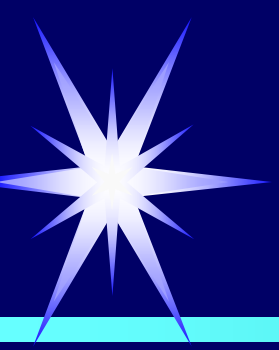
- **Flooding** in low lying areas is the most frequent type of natural hazard event experienced in the Charleston area.





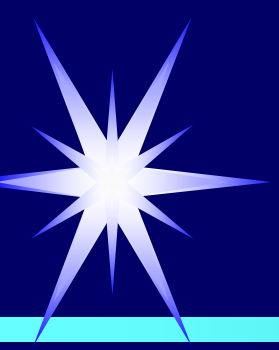
During a Flood

- Turn of the electrical main disconnect if property is in danger of flooding.
- Stay alert to weather advisories
- Do not drive or wade through deep pockets of water.
- Avoid low lying areas.
- Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.



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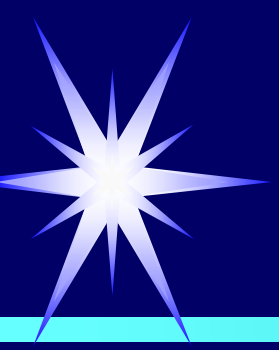
- Which type of natural hazard event has caused the most damage to structures per event in the Charleston area in this century?



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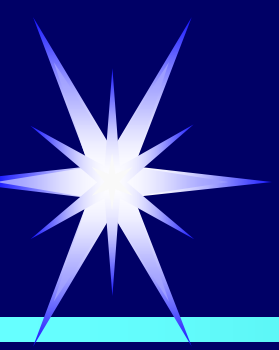
- **Hurricanes** have caused the most structural damage. Hurricane Hugo in 1989 caused over **\$7.1 billion** in damage in the Carolinas.





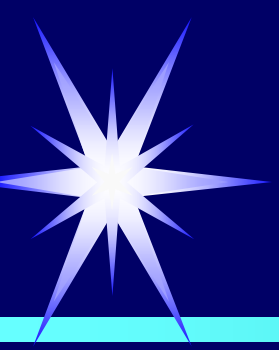
Hurricane Preparation

- **Protect building openings from breakage and penetration with an approved protection system (e.g. commercially available shutters, hurricane resistant windows, or plywood).**
- **Shelter in a safe location (e.g. not in storm surge flooding areas or areas where high winds are expected)**
- **Have emergency kit (water, non-perishable food, flashlight, portable radio, batteries, baby and pet supplies, first aid kit, etc.)**



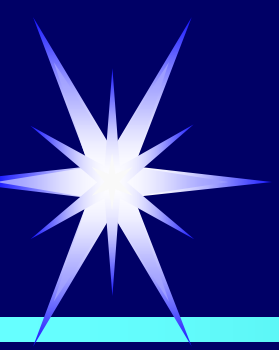
Hurricane Preparation

- **Secure outdoor objects to reduce flying debris (e.g. furniture, plants, yard or play equipment, etc.)**
- **Trim tree branches overhanging structures**
- **Verify that structure is adequately braced to resist wind uplift forces**



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- **What is the most common cause of wildfires in the Charleston area?**



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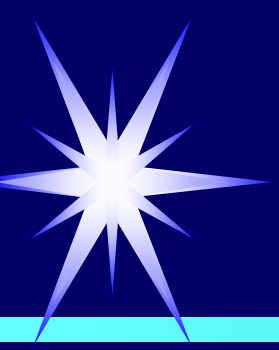


- The highest numbers of land fires in Charleston County are caused by **matches** or burning of debris.



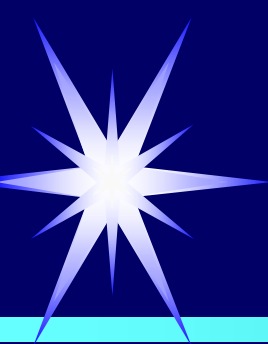
Wildfire Protection for Buildings In or Near Forest Areas

- **Use plants and mulches in landscaping near buildings that are more fire resistive (e.g. stones, rocks, etc.)**
- **Maintain a 30 foot safety zone around buildings where flammable materials are minimized.**
- **Construct buildings with fire-resistive materials (e.g. stucco, cement, concrete, non-combustible roof coverings, etc.)**



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- **What should you do if you are in a building and there is a release of a hazardous material outside in your immediate area?**

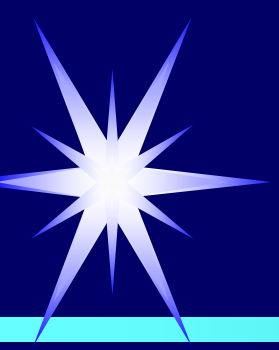


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For Hazardous Materials Releases:



- Follow emergency instructions.
- Shelter in place unless directed to do otherwise.



Sheltering in Place for Hazardous Materials Releases

- **Go inside your house or other building**
- **Close all windows and doors**
- **Turn off all ventilation systems**
- **Turn on radio/television**
- **Stay calm and listen for safety information**