# EARTHQUAKES

Earthquakes strike without warning. Generally the SAFEST PLACE to be during an earthquake is in the OPEN away from buildings. However, if you are in a building when the earthquake strikes, you should NOT attempt to run from the building. Outside the building you may be met with falling debris and power lines. It is safer for you to remain in the building.

Basic guidelines for personal safety are as follows:

* Try to remain calm;
* Move away from windows and outside walls;
* Keep away from mirrors, light fittings, bookcases or other furniture that may fall or slide;
* If possible, shelter next to a large stable object (e.g. desk, bed, filling cabinet) but not under it;
* Don’t go sightseeing;
* Don’t use telephone immediately, unless for serious injury; and
* Be aware of live electrical cables.

***WARNING: REMEMBER DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RUN FROM THE BUILDING***

Once the tremor has stopped, look around for injured personnel and reassure others in your area.

The Building Chief Warden or a Deputy should call the buildings Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) into action as soon as possible after the earthquake. The ECO members will be responsible for the following activities:

* Assessing damage in area;
* Ensuring First Aid is given to those injured;
* Notifying the relevant authorities;
* Switching off power to appliances if safe to do so;
* Initiating controlled evacuation or;
* Conducting a search of the area if it is safe to do so; and
* Preventing re-entry into the building.