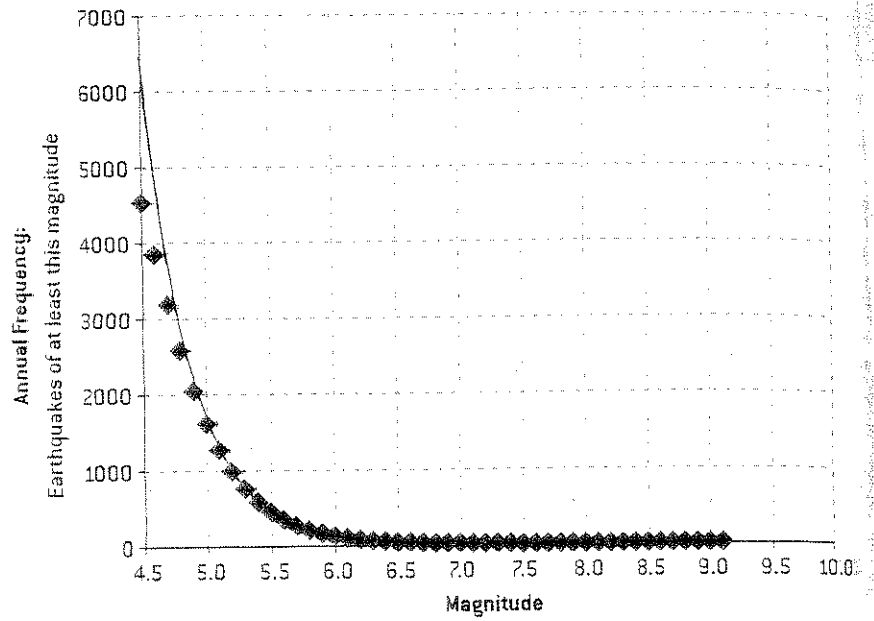


FIGURE 5-2. FREQUENCY OF A MAJOR (\geq MAGNITUDE 6.75) EARTHQUAKE WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS OF SELECT U.S. CITIES

Anchorage	1 per 30 years
San Francisco	1 per 35 years
Los Angeles	1 per 40 years
Seattle	1 per 150 years
Sacramento	1 per 180 years
San Diego	1 per 190 years
Salt Lake City	1 per 200 years
Portland, OR	1 per 500 years
Charleston, SC	1 per 600 years
Las Vegas	1 per 1,200 years
Memphis	1 per 2,500 years
Phoenix	1 per 7,500 years
New York	1 per 12,000 years
Boston	1 per 15,000 years
Philadelphia	1 per 17,000 years
St. Louis	1 per 23,000 years
Atlanta	1 per 30,000 years
Denver	1 per 40,000 years
Washington, DC	1 per 55,000 years
Chicago	1 per 75,000 years
Houston	1 per 100,000 years
Dallas	1 per 130,000 years
Miami	1 per 140,000 years

But did you know about Charleston, South Carolina? It is seismically active too; indeed, it experienced a magnitude 7.3 earthquake in 1886. The USGS estimates that there will be another big earthquake there about once per six hundred years. If you live in Seattle, you should probably have an earthquake plan ready; it is more earthquake-prone than many parts of California, the USGS says. But you don't need one if you live in Denver, which is a safe distance away from any continental boundaries.

FIGURE 5-3A: WORLDWIDE EARTHQUAKE FREQUENCIES, JANUARY 1964–MARCH 2012



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FIGURE 5-3B: WORLDWIDE EARTHQUAKE FREQUENCIES, JANUARY 1964—MARCH 2012, LOGARITHMIC SCALE

