



The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is an earthquake drill designed to educate the public on how to prepare and protect themselves during a large earthquake. April 28, 2011 is the first year for The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut and will be the largest earthquake drill to take place in this part of the country.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency registered to participate in the ShakeOut on March 23. Since then, Ohio EMA has encouraged county EMAs and their partners to register for the ShakeOut and help educate the public on earthquake safety and preparedness.

ShakeOut began as *The Great Southern California ShakeOut* in November of 2008. It was the largest earthquake drill at the time, with a total of 5.4 million participants spanning eight counties in the southern part of the state.

By 2009, the entire state of California was participating in The Great California ShakeOut. More than 6.9 million Californians participated by practicing **DROP, COVER** and **HOLD ON**, and other aspects of family, school and organizational emergency plans.

Why Have an Earthquake Drill?

The *Great Central U.S. Shakeout* will include all of the states that were impacted by the large earthquakes that centered near New Madrid, Missouri in 1811-1812 (Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas). Any central U.S. state is welcome to join in the promotion of earthquake safety and preparedness.

The ShakeOut will take place before the National Level Exercise in May 2011, which will simulate the catastrophic nature of a major earthquake in the central US region of the New Madrid Seismic Zone. 2011 marks the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquake.

During NLE-11, Ohio will conduct its own earthquake exercise: Shaken Horizon. The State EOC will operate around the clock for 72 hours. Responding ESF participants will work in 12-hour shifts. Shaken Horizon will test response and recovery efforts of city, county and state officials.

The ShakeOut drill takes place before NLE-11 and Ohio's Shaken Horizon. Ohio may never experience a catastrophic earthquake. But if you're visiting someplace that does, will you know what to do?

For additional information and to register for the April 28th *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut*, click on: <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>