



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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OHIO JOINS CENTRAL UNITED STATES FOR THE GREAT SHAKEOUT *Multi-State Exercise Promotes Earthquake Safety and Preparedness*

COLUMBUS, OH – On Thursday, April 28, Ohio will join at least 11 other states in the largest earthquake drill ever held in this region of the country. At 10:15 a.m., more than 2 million people will “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during *The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut*.

The initial eight states that were impacted by the large series of earthquakes centered near the New Madrid Seismic Zone in 1811 and 1812 are participating in The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee). This year marks the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquake.

Any central region state is welcome to register for the ShakeOut and help in the promotion of earthquake safety and preparedness. Georgia, Oklahoma and South Carolina are also participating.

The probability of Ohio experiencing a catastrophic earthquake is small – but earthquakes do happen in Ohio. The most recent occurred on March 17 near Youngstown. The tremor registered as a 2.6 magnitude, and was the first quake ever recorded in Mahoning County. The Ohio Seismic Network of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources recorded nine earthquakes in 2010.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency and numerous county EMA offices and partners have registered for the ShakeOut and will test their emergency plans as they “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” Federal and state emergency management officials agree that the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes is to **Drop, Cover and Hold On**.

- ✓ **DROP** to the ground immediately. Otherwise, an earthquake’s forceful shaking may knock you down.
- ✓ Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table and **COVER** your head to protect yourself from falling objects and breaking glass.
- ✓ **HOLD ON** to the desk or table until the shaking stops.

It is important that Ohioans are ready and prepared to handle all hazards that can affect their homes and communities. Prepare disaster supplies kits. Have enough supplies to sustain every member of the household for a minimum of three days. Make an emergency plan. Know what to do, where to go and who to communicate with when there is severe weather or a fire or an earthquake. Stay informed of weather conditions or situations affecting your area.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is organized by the Central United States Earthquake Consortium, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ready, U.S. Geological Survey, the American Red Cross, and others. To register for the ShakeOut, go to www.shakeout.org/centralus/partners/index.html.

You can also register for the ShakeOut and download earthquake preparedness information from the Ohio EMA website: www.ema.ohio.gov.

Readiness information for all hazards impacting Ohio is also available at www.ready.ohio.gov.

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The primary mission of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, is to coordinate activities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. This mission is carried out by closely interfacing with local, state and federal agencies in an effort to bring resources of recovery and support to Ohioans impacted by the disaster. In addition to disaster response and recovery, Ohio EMA agency activities include: education, training, planning and preparedness - strengthening Ohio's first responder capabilities and improving communication across the state.