



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2012

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OHIO EMA ENCOURAGES PUBLIC TO JOIN THE GREAT CENTRAL U.S. SHAKEOUT

COLUMBUS, OH – The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is a drill designed to educate the public on how to protect themselves during a large earthquake, and how to get prepared. February is Earthquake Awareness Month. On Feb. 7 at 10:15 a.m. the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut will conduct its second annual large-scale earthquake drill.

The Great Central U.S. Shakeout includes nine partners/states that were impacted by the large earthquakes that centered near New Madrid, Missouri in 1811 and 1812 – Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Any central U.S. state not directly impacted by the New Madrid can register and join to participate. Several Ohio businesses and organizations have already registered. Ohio EMA joined earlier this month.

It is important that Ohio citizens know what to do to protect themselves and their property from the hazards of earthquakes. Some earthquake preparedness steps include:

- Identify safe places in each room of your home and workplace. A safe place could be under a heavy piece of furniture, like a table or desk, or against an interior wall that is away from windows or items that could fall.
- Practice **Drop, Cover and Hold On** in each safe place. If there isn't sturdy furniture to hold on to, sit on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Organize and maintain a disaster supply kit. Develop an emergency communications plan.
- Develop a safety plan on what to do before, during and after an earthquake. Practice your plan.

Currently, states not directly impacted by the New Madrid, but participating in the 2012 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut include: Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, New York and Ohio.

For additional information and to register for the ShakeOut, go to: www.shakeout.org/centralus/.

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