



# MEDIA ADVISORY

## Emergency Management Agency

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

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*(Information from Central United States Earthquake Consortium [CUSEC] press releases)*

### **Are You Ready to ShakeOut?**

*The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut Earthquake Drill is February 7<sup>th</sup>*

COLUMBUS, OH – The year 2012 demonstrated to the nation once again, that residents need to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies. Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc along the East Coast in late October, leaving thousands of northeast residents without homes or power. It also left the government with a huge clean-up bill, exceeding into the billions, to aid impacted states in their long-term recovery process.



On January 3, FEMA approved a public assistance declaration for Cuyahoga County which is requesting reimbursement for \$17 million in damages and costs to public property and infrastructure caused by the storm. Like hurricanes, earthquakes can severely impact our cities and infrastructure. And, like hurricane-force winds, earthquakes happen in Ohio. Is Ohio ready to handle a major earthquake? Would Ohioans know what to do?

At 10:15 a.m. on February 7, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency will join numerous businesses, organizations and local EMA offices in the state, and **Drop, Cover and Hold On** during the third annual Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. **Drop, Cover and Hold On** is the recommended safety action in the event of an earthquake. When an earthquake occurs -

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** under a sturdy table or desk, if possible, and protect your head and neck
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops

The date of the ShakeOut drill coincides with the anniversary of the February 7, 1812 earthquake that occurred near New Madrid, Missouri. That earthquake was part of a series of at least three earthquakes with a magnitude of 7 or greater during the winter of 1811-1812, that changed the landscape of the central United States.

The ShakeOut is organized by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. The state of Ohio is one of 10 associate members of the CUSEC.

To participate in the 2013 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut and learn more about earthquake safety and preparedness, go to [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus) sign up. To date, more than 810,000 individuals, schools, businesses and organizations have registered.

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