



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Management Agency

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

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September 30, 2013

### **Get Ready Ohio, to Drop, Cover and Hold On!** *The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut Earthquake Drill is October 17<sup>th</sup>*

**Columbus, OH** – In February, more than 10,000 Ohioans participated in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill. For three years, the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has conducted ShakeOut drills in February to coincide with the anniversaries of the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812.

Although the drills were highly visible and successful, they were out of sync with the larger, national ShakeOut drills that take place every third Thursday in October. CUSEC elected to have a second drill this year and move its ShakeOut drill to October 17, to align with the national earthquake safety initiative that involves more than 43 states and territories.

In 17 days at 10:17 a.m., the Ohio Emergency Management Agency will join numerous schools, organizations and county EMA offices throughout the state to once again practice earthquake safety and **Drop, Cover and Hold On**. To date, approximately 1.6 million people have signed up to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut and will practice the recommended response to earthquake shaking:

- **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

Earthquakes happen without warning. And, earthquakes happen in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Seismic Network have recorded six earthquakes so far this year: three in July and three in March. Ohio had a total of four earthquakes in 2012.

The actual ShakeOut drill only takes about two minutes. But for emergency managers and responders, it's the preparation beforehand, to ensure that the public is aware of how to protect itself from earthquakes and other hazards that impact Ohio.

ShakeOut is coordinated by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

To participate in the October 17 ShakeOut and to learn more about earthquake safety and preparedness, go to [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus). Drill manuals, audio/video drill broadcasts and other ShakeOut resources are available on this site.

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