



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
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FOURTH ANNUAL “GREAT SHAKEOUT” SET FOR OCTOBER 16, 2014

All citizens, businesses, and communities in Ohio are encouraged to participate

Columbus, OH — Following FEMA’s “National Preparedness Month” in September, individuals and communities throughout ten states will participate in the fourth annual *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* Earthquake Drill.

Held annually on the third Thursday of October, the *ShakeOut* is set for Thursday, **October 16, 2014 at 10:16 a.m.** During the self-led drill, participants practice how to “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**”.

Endorsed by emergency officials and first responders, the safe response to an earthquake is to:

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

The 6.0 magnitude earthquake that happened near Napa, California on September 7 serves as a reminder that earthquakes often strike without warning and can cause considerable damage. Citizens in the central U.S. are not immune to earthquakes—the region is home to several active seismic zones that threaten as many as eighteen states, including the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

“Knowing what to do in the event of an earthquake is as important as knowing what to do in the event of a tornado or a prolonged power outage,” said Nancy Dragani, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “Ohio may not see a catastrophic or sizable earthquake, but we still should know what to do in case the unforeseeable happens.”

The *ShakeOut* drill is free and open-to-the-public, and participants include individuals, schools, businesses, local and state government agencies, and many other groups. To take part in the *ShakeOut*, individuals and organizations are asked to sign up to participate in the drill by visiting <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>. Once registered, participants receive regular information on how to plan their drill and become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters.

To date, more than 2 million people are registered to participate in the *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut*, including 3,775 individuals in Ohio.

The *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* is being coordinated by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety; the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium; other member and associate states; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the U.S. Geological Survey; and multiple other partners.

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