



# MEDIA ADVISORY

## Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FIFTH ANNUAL “GREAT CENTRAL U.S. SHAKEOUT” SET FOR OCTOBER 15, 2015**

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

**Columbus, OH** – Following FEMA’s “National Preparedness Month” in September, individuals and communities throughout 14 Midwest states will participate in the fifth annual *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* Earthquake Drill. *ShakeOut* drills are major activities of [America’s PrepareAthon!](#)

Held annually on the third Thursday of October, the *ShakeOut International Day of Action* is set for **October 15, 2015 at 10:15 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 April 2015 M7.8 Nepal earthquake and M8.3 September 16, 2015 earthquake near Illapel, Chile serve as reminders that large earthquakes can occur with little to no warning. Citizens in the central U.S. are not immune to earthquakes. Since July 19, Ohio has had or felt nine earthquakes this year, including a 4.2 magnitude quake in Kalamazoo County, MI, which was felt through most of northwest Ohio.

“Knowing what to do in the event of an earthquake is as important as knowing what to do in the event of a flood or prolonged power outage,” said Sima Merick, executive director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. “Although Ohio hasn’t had a sizeable earthquake, we still need to know what to do if an earthquake of any magnitude happens.”

The *ShakeOut* is free and open-to-the-public. Participants include individuals, schools, businesses, local and state government agencies, and many other groups. To take part in *ShakeOut*, click to register at [www.shakeout.org/centralus](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, 2.8 million people are registered to participate in this regional event, however *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills* will also occur throughout most of the nation and in several countries worldwide. More than 25 million people around the globe are expected to participate; including 14,200 in Ohio!

The *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* is being coordinated by Ohio EMA, the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and its member and associate states, FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey, and dozens of other partners.

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