



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREAT CENTRAL U.S. SHAKEOUT

PEARL – Even though Earthquake Awareness Week in Mississippi is winding down it does not mean Mississippi families and residents should to stop preparing for a possible seismic event. At 10:15 a.m., April 28 everybody in our state is encouraged to take part in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. The ShakeOut is a 10 state, coordinated earthquake drill.

Residents in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina and Tennessee will all **drop, cover and hold on** during that drill. Knowing what to do if an earthquake hits will make sure fewer people are injured during an event.

To register to participate in the ShakeOut just visit the MEMA website at www.msema.org and click on the ShakeOut button on the front page, or visit the ShakeOut website directly at www.shakeout.org/centralus/. There is no cost to register and everybody, from individuals, families, faith based organizations, businesses and schools are encouraged to take part in this tremendous teaching opportunity.

“The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is a great opportunity for all of our residents, young and old, to learn what to do if an earthquake strikes,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “While it has been 200 years since the last major seismic event in our state that doesn’t mean we are not at risk. Educating the public of that risk and how to stay safe is our primary goal.”

This year is the bicentennial anniversary of a series of strong earthquakes along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Some scientists believe another strong earthquake in this area is possible and want everybody to be prepared.

For information on preparing an all-hazards disaster survival kit and tips for protecting your property against earthquake damage, visit MEMA online at www.msema.org and click the “Preparedness” link. Additional information is available from Central United States Earthquake Consortium at www.cusec.org, the U.S. Geological Survey at www.usgs.gov and from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.fema.gov.

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“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”
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