



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS WEEK

PEARL – The recent tragic earthquake in Haiti is a vivid reminder that parts of Mississippi are at risk of strong earthquakes. This is why Governor Haley Barbour has declared February 1 – 5, Mississippi’s Earthquake Awareness Week.

“We have seen up close and very recently the danger earthquakes pose,” Governor Barbour said. “It is extremely important that our citizens realize preparing for such an event will help protect themselves and their loved ones should a similar disaster strike.”

The New Madrid seismic zone stretches 40 miles wide and 200 miles long and affects parts of Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. The zone consists of a series of complex faults that cross the Mississippi River in three places and the Ohio River in two places.

The New Madrid is most famous for a series of earthquakes between 1811 and 1812 that caused more than 2,000 shocks in five months and five earthquakes with an estimated magnitude of 8.0 or stronger.

“Making sure residents and local governments are prepared is a primary responsibility of our agency,” said MEMA Director Mike Womack. “Although these events are rare we hope everybody still takes the threat seriously and gets a disaster plan and kit together should a strong earthquake occur.”

The strongest recorded earthquake in Mississippi happened in 1931 with a magnitude of 4.6 centered on Tallahatchie County. The earthquake damaged buildings and toppled chimneys. Smaller quakes are felt and registered in Mississippi every year.

MEMA will provide information and preparedness tips throughout Earthquake Awareness Week. For more information, contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-MEMA (6362), or visit us online at www.msema.org.

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“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”
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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the northwestern section of the State of Mississippi lies within the New Madrid seismic zone; and

WHEREAS three of the largest earthquakes in U.S. history occurred along the New Madrid seismic zone; and

WHEREAS a magnitude 6.0 or greater earthquake within the New Madrid seismic zone could impact the State of Mississippi and its residents; and

WHEREAS the State of Mississippi is an active member of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), a partnership of the Federal Government and the eight States most affected by earthquakes in the Central United States; and

WHEREAS the primary mission of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency is to coordinate the activities that will save lives, protect property and reduce suffering of citizens impacted by disasters and emergencies; and

WHEREAS the United States Geological Survey records more than 200 minor earthquakes along the New Madrid seismic zone; and

WHEREAS the United States Geological Survey estimates at least a 25 percent probability of a magnitude 6.0 or greater earthquake occurring within the New Madrid seismic zone during any 50-year period; and

WHEREAS the recent tragic events in the island country of Haiti caused by a massive earthquake; and

WHEREAS the State of Mississippi and its citizens must realize the potential threat posed by the New Madrid seismic zone and prepare for the possibility of a significant earthquake event,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim February 1– 5 as


EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and encourage our citizens to join in this effort to increase public awareness of disaster preparedness and to save lives and property should our State be affected by an earthquake.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the twenty-ninth day of January in the year of our Lord, two thousand and ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fourth.


HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR