



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

**CUSEC**

*a partnership to mitigate disasters and save lives....*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

OCTOBER 16, 2013

**University to Participate in National Earthquake Drill Tomorrow**  
*Media invited to observe and interview participants and disaster preparedness officials*

**MEMPHIS, TN** - On Thursday at 10:17 a.m., more than 15 million people in 43 states and territories are expected to participate in the *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills*. During the drills, participants practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**”, the recommended safety procedure during an earthquake. In this area, the ShakeOut is a part of a regional effort known as the *Great Central U.S. Shakeout*. There are more than 315,000 people in Tennessee who will take part in the drill.

For the ShakeOut, the University of Memphis and its Barbara K. Lipman School will host an open-to-the-media earthquake drill and demonstration. The event is co-sponsored by the University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI), Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), FEMA, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA). During the demonstration, disaster preparedness experts from CERI, CUSEC, FEMA, and TEMA, will be on hand to:

- Talk with students and teachers about the importance of earthquake and disaster safety
- Demonstrate proper earthquake safety techniques
- Provide information on potential earthquake threats in the Memphis area

Because damaging earthquakes may occur at any time in the central U.S., it is important that the public know how to protect themselves, which is what the Shakeout is designed to reinforce.

Media are invited to attend and take footage of the earthquake drill and hold side interviews, as well as participate in an earthquake focused public forum at the Michael D. Rose Theater on the University of Memphis main campus from 1:30-4:30PM.

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**WHEN:** October 17, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (media should be onsite by 10:00a.m.)

**WHERE:** Barbara K Lipman School and Research Institute  
3771 Poplar Avenue - Memphis, TN 38111

**WHO:** Gary Patterson, University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information  
Sandra Brown Turner, Barbara K. Lipman School and Research Institute  
Cecil Whaley, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency  
Jim Wilkinson, Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium  
Roy Wright, Federal Emergency Management Agency

**RSVP:** Interested media should contact Gary Patterson, Director of Education and Outreach at the Center for Earthquake Research and Information, at (901) 678-5264.

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*The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is coordinated by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and its Member and Associate States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey and dozens of other partners. For more information visit [www.shakeout.org/centralus](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus).*

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