



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

CUSEC

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOURTH ANNUAL “GREAT SHAKEOUT” SET FOR OCTOBER 16, 2014

All citizens, businesses, and communities encouraged participate

Memphis, Tenn. — 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 recent M6.0 earthquake near Napa, California serves as a reminder that earthquakes often strike without warning and can cause considerable damage. Also, 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.

The *ShakeOut* 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 www.shakeout.org. 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 1.8 million people are registered to participate in the *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut*, however ShakeOut Earthquake Drills will also occur nationwide in more than 45 states and territories. More than 25 million people are expected to participate nationwide and in addition to safety drills, many participants take extra steps to become more prepared for earthquakes or other disasters.

The *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* is being 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.

Organizing States include: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Tennessee

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