



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

CUSEC

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

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2012 Great Central US ShakeOut Set for February 7

Memphis, Tenn.— In February 2012, communities throughout the central U.S. will once again practice the recommended response in the event of an earthquake: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. In conjunction with the 2011 National Preparedness Month, the *Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC)* and its Member States are pleased to announce that the next *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* will be held on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.** This date coincides with the 200th anniversary of the February 7, 1812 earthquake near New Madrid, Missouri, the last of a series of earthquakes that caused the formation of Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee and were felt as far away as the eastern seaboard. In April of 2011, more than three million people across the region participated in the first-ever Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. Based on that success, this open-to-the-public earthquake preparedness drill is now planned as an annual event, and nearly 250,000 people have already registered for the 2012 ShakeOut.

Scientists estimate that there is a 20-40 percent probability of a damaging earthquake occurring in the mid-west within the next 50 years. A large earthquake could have major impacts on national transportation, communication, utility, and financial systems. Recently, the M5.8 earthquake that occurred in Virginia on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 has shown many Americans that the central and eastern U.S. are not immune to seismic activity.

The ShakeOut is based upon a simultaneous “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drill, and provides communities valuable time to practice this simple, yet potentially lifesaving, activity. Drop, Cover, and Hold On involves -

- **Drop** to the Ground
- **Take Cover** under a sturdy table or desk if possible and protect your head and neck
- **Hold On** until the shaking stops

The *Great Central US ShakeOut* is your chance to practice what to do before an earthquake happens in your community, and to get better prepared for a quick recovery. This event is being organized by the *Central United States Earthquake Consortium* (<http://www.cusec.org>) and the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, and hundreds of local, state, federal and volunteer partners. The ShakeOut is free and open to the public. To participate, go to www.shakeout.org/centralus and pledge your family, school, business, or organization’s participation in the drill. Once registered, you will receive information on how to plan your drill and how to engage your community.

It is a two minute commitment for something that can save your life. It all begins with registering, which is free and open to everyone.

To register, or for more information, visit www.shakeout.org/centralus