



Date: February 5, 2013
No.: RIV-13-41
Media Contact: 770-220-8863

News Release

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut helps Alabama Prepare for Earthquakes *Earthquake Drill at 10:15 a.m. Local Time*

ATLANTA – In less than two days, more than 2.5 million people are expected to participate in the *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* earthquake drill.

The ShakeOut will be held Thursday, February 7 at 10:15 a.m. local time. It is a multi-state earthquake drill for millions of people to simultaneously practice the recommended response to earthquake shaking:

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD-ON** to it until the shaking stops

Although people living in this part of the country haven't experienced many earthquakes, scientists estimate that there is a 25-40 percent probability of a damaging earthquake occurring in the central U.S. within a 50-year timeframe.

"The only way to be prepared for an earthquake is to practice," says Alabama Emergency Management Agency Director Art Faulkner. "This ShakeOut drill is the perfect opportunity for families, schools and churches to review and practice their plan of action if an earthquake occurs."

Thursday's drill marks the anniversary of the last of the powerful New Madrid earthquakes, a series of at least three magnitude 7-8.0 quakes that struck in the winter of 1811-12 and affected many parts of this region. If it happened today, an earthquake would cause injury and loss of life, and widespread damage and disruption to the nation's economy and built environment.

Anyone can sign up to participate in Thursday's drill at shakeout.org/centralus. The website offers many resources for participants to use including:

- Drill Manuals

- Audio and Video Drill Broadcasts
- Earthquake Scenarios and more

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is coordinated by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, its Member and Associate States, FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey and many other partners. States participating include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

###