



January 31, 2012

To All Missourians,

The Missouri Seismic Safety Commission serves the state as a panel of experts on earthquakes and how we can prepare for them. We know that significant earthquakes have occurred in this part of the country before and that we should be ready for others in the future. Since these events occur without warning, the commission encourages Missourians to take every opportunity to prepare.

One such opportunity is the **Great Central U.S. ShakeOut**, to be held on February 7, 2012 at 10:15 a.m. Missouri is one of nine states in the New Madrid Seismic Zone that will participate in this regional exercise. The ShakeOut will take place on the 200th anniversary of the largest earthquake in state history – the great New Madrid quake that occurred on February 7, 1812 devastated much of southeast Missouri, briefly reversed the course of the Mississippi River, and was felt as far away as the east coast.

During the ShakeOut, citizens will be able to practice the “Drop, Cover and Hold On” technique. Dropping down and getting under a desk or table gives you the best chance of survival in a damaging earthquake.

To register for the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut on February 7, go to www.ShakeOut.org/centralus.

It’s easy to sign up your school, your business, or family, and it takes only a minute to participate. The Missouri Seismic Safety Commission believes that participating in the ShakeOut, as well as being prepared for all emergencies, is time well spent.

For more information on Missouri’s involvement in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut, contact Steve Besemer with the State Emergency Management Agency by phone at (573) 526-9232 or by e-mail at steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov. To learn more about our commission, please visit the Seismic Safety Commission tab on the earthquake page at www.sema.dps.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

Don Shaw

Donald E. Shaw, P.E.
Chair, Missouri Seismic Safety Commission