



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

CUSEC

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

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Expected Participants for the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut Tops One Million

Memphis, Tennessee (March 14, 2011)— More than one million people are now expected to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut to be held at 10:15 a.m. on April 28, 2011 (April 19 in Indiana)— a regional earthquake drill where participants will simultaneously practice the recommended action during an earthquake, Drop, Cover and Hold-On:

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

The recent M8.9 earthquake and resulting tsunami in Japan serves as a reminder that earthquakes can happen at any time, and can have devastating and far-reaching effects.

With scientists estimating that there is a 25-40% probability of a damaging earthquake occurring in the central U.S. within the next 50 years, the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is designed to help individuals and communities in the region get ready for damaging earthquakes, practice how to protect themselves, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes. This Drop, Cover and Hold-On drill is free and open to the general public, and will take place in communities throughout eleven states. Those states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Interested people, schools, businesses, communities, etc. are encouraged to visit www.shakeout.org/centralus to pledge their participation in the drill. On the website, several resources are available for participants to download:

- Drill Manuals
- Downloadable Drill Broadcasts
- Educational Videos
- Flyers, Posters, and promotional material
- Web Banners

As a linked event of the New Madrid Bicentennial and the National Level (Earthquake) Exercise 2011 (NLE2011), the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is being coordinated by the Central US Earthquake Consortium and its Member and Associate States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey and dozens of other partners.