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IEMA Encourages Earthquake Preparedness on Anniversary of 2008 Quake in Southeastern Illinois

*More than 102,000 Illinois residents registered to participate in
'The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut' on April 28*

SPRINGFIELD – Three years ago, Illinois residents were reminded of the earthquake risk in the Central U.S. when a 5.4 magnitude earthquake occurred. Centered near the southeastern Illinois town of Mt. Carmel, the April 18, 2008, quake caused minimal damage but was felt by people as far away as Chicago.

On the third anniversary of that temblor, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is encouraging people to be better prepared for earthquakes by participating in ‘The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut’ on April 28 at 10:15 a.m.

“While the New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones are located in southern Illinois, the effects of a major earthquake in that region could be felt throughout the state,” said IEMA Director Jonathon Monken. “It’s important for everyone to know how to stay safe during a quake.”

‘The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut’ is a multi-state earthquake drill in which more than two million people in 11 states will practice the life-saving “Drop, Cover and Hold On” action. The slogan reminds people to “Drop” down to the floor, take “Cover” under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture, and “Hold On” to the furniture item and be prepared to move with it until the shaking ends.

To date, more than 102,000 Illinois residents are registered to participate in the one-minute drill. Schools, businesses, government agencies, families, individuals and others can register to participate in the drill at <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus>. Registered participants will receive additional information about the drill and earthquake preparedness.

Besides Illinois, other states participating in the drill include Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee.

More information about the earthquake risk in Illinois and earthquake preparedness is available at www.Ready.Illinois.gov.