



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

**CUSEC**

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Central U.S. to ShakeOut in One Week

**Memphis, Tenn. (April 21, 2011)**— In one week, more than two point five million people across the central U.S. and other parts of the world will take part in the first-ever *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* to be held at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2011 — a regional earthquake drill in which participants will simultaneously practice the recommended action during an earthquake which is 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

With scientists estimating that there is a 20-40 percent 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. More than 600,000 Hoosiers registered to participate in this Drop, Cover and Hold-On drill, which was conducted in the state of Indiana on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. We look forward to outstanding participation from residents in the remaining participating states of: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee. These states will conduct their Drop, Cover and Hold-On drill in exactly one week from today.

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

- Drill Manuals
- Drill Broadcasts and Videos
- Flyers, Posters, Etc.
- Web Banners

As a linked event of the New Madrid Bicentennial and the National Level (Earthquake) Exercise 2011 (NLE 2011), 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.