As the central United States is earthquake country, it is important for public utilities to know what to do before, during, and after an earthquake. The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut provides an opportunity for them to practice these important steps. By practicing now, they can learn how to better prepare themselves for earthquakes and other disasters, increasing the potential to provide critical services as usual to the communities they serve.

Below is a ShakeOut Spotlight on the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives. The Cooperative provides utility services for 24 local, consumer-owned electric distribution utilities in the state. They help their members get reliable electric service to more than one and a half million Kentuckians. According to Vicent Rogers, Safety Manager with the Cooperative, they will perform the following actions during the ShakeOut:

“The Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives will be participating in the ShakeOut on April 28th. Prior to the ShakeOut, classes will be conducted with employees to inform them of the proper procedures for both work and home environments.

At the time of the ShakeOut our employees will receive a page informing them to Drop, Cover, and Hold On!!! Earthquake sounds effects will also be played over the paging system. During the event our Emergency Response Team and Supervisors will observe our employees’ response and a scorecard will be completed. Immediately following the drill, Emergency Responders will meet for a critique of all aspects of response. A written response will be sent to the coordinators that afternoon, information collated and then a debriefing held for team members.

We at KAEC take our employees, their families, our customers and communities’ safety seriously. We will be working with Disaster and Emergency Services, fire and emergency responders and urge other businesses to do the same.”

We would like to thank the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives for their participation in the ShakeOut and commitment to preparing themselves, their employees, and their community for disasters. For more information about KAEC, visit http://www.kaec.org/.

If you would like to be featured in a ShakeOut Spotlight, email shakeout@cusec.org.

The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut is a multi-state partnership to increase earthquake awareness and preparedness at all levels in the central U.S. For more information, please visit www.shakeout.org/centralus.