



For Immediate Release
February 4, 2016

February is Earthquake Awareness Month!



Shelby County, lying within the New Madrid seismic zone, has a high probability of experiencing a 6.0 magnitude earthquake or greater in the near future, according to the United States Geological Survey. Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director, said, "There will be no warning for an earthquake. We encourage you to practice earthquake safety during **February, Earthquake Awareness Month**. Survey your home and workspace to eliminate hazards and most important, make a plan with your family and co-workers, a plan to survive."

The Office of Preparedness offers these earthquake safety actions:

BEFORE THE QUAKE:

- Create a disaster kit for you and your pets for home, work, and auto.
- Secure heavy objects (bookcases, mirrors, water heater) to the wall.
- Minimize financial hardships. Organize important documents. Have a household inventory.
- Teach family how to turn off utilities safely (gas, water, and electricity).
- Hold family earthquake drills.
- Decide on two places to meet: one outside the home and one in the community
- Practice the **DROP, COVER, HOLD** earthquake maneuver.
- Create a communications plan. Program emergency numbers in cell phones.

DURING THE QUAKE:

- **Inside: Don't run outside. Don't head for a doorway.** DROP, COVER, HOLD.
- **Outside:** Stay away from buildings, trees, phone lines, or electrical power lines.
- **Driving:** Pull to the side, stay inside with seatbelt on. Avoid overpasses or underpasses.
- **Crowded store:** Don't run for an exit. Move away from shelves. DROP, COVER, HOLD.
- **Bed:** Hold on and stay still. Protect your head with a pillow.
- **Wheelchair:** Stay put, lock the wheels, and protect your head with your hands.
- **Stadium:** Stay seated. Protect your head with your arms. Exit when safe to do so.
- **Highrise:** Go to an interior wall. Protect your head with your arms. Don't use an elevator!

AFTER THE QUAKE:

- Put on PPE's: helmet, boots, gloves, goggles, reflective vest, dust mask, flashlight, whistle.
- Check for injuries. Give first-aid (if trained to do so).

- Check for gas, water, or electrical problems. Evacuate if you smell gas.
- Open closets and cabinets slowly and carefully. Watch out for falling debris.
- Use landlines for emergency calls only. Text to get messages out.
- Listen to NOAA battery-powered radio. Follow instructions from authorities.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES:

- Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us
- ShakeOut: www.shakeout.org
- Center for Earthquake Research and Information: www.memphis.edu/cei
- Central United States Earthquake Consortium: www.cusec.org
- United States Geological Survey: www.usgs.gov
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.org

End of Release