



**For Immediate Release**

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## February is Earthquake Awareness Month

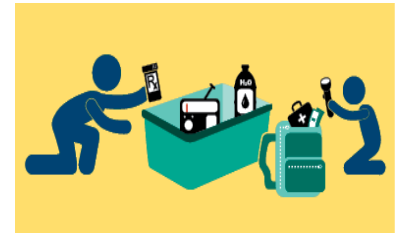


“An earthquake has no season and can occur without warning. Will you be prepared to survive? During **February, Earthquake Awareness Month**, please meet with your family and review these earthquake safety tips together,” said Dale Lane, Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director. “Learn what to do before, during, and after this disaster.”

“Your level of preparedness will make the difference in whether you survive and will play a big part in your quality of life following the earthquake,” added Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

**BEFORE:**

- Meet with your family to create a plan.
- Have a “go kit” to include a flashlight, helmet, boots, work gloves, goggles, metal whistle, battery powered NOAA radio, first-aid kit, tools, bottled water, and non-perishable food.
- **Identify and fix home hazards:**
  - Relocate heavy items away from beds, couches, or where people sleep.
  - Secure heavy objects (bookcases, water heaters) to the wall.
  - Install latches on cabinets.
  - Move breakable items to the bottom of lower cabinets.
- **Minimize financial hardships.**
  - Organize your documents (insurance, medical, financial).
  - Create a digital household inventory.
- Practice the **DROP, COVER, HOLD** earthquake maneuver.
- Pick a “safe place” in each room to DROP, COVER, HOLD.
- Learn to turn off gas, water, and electricity safely.
- Learn to use an ABC fire extinguisher.
- Hold family earthquake, evacuation, and shelter-in-place drills.
- Have a meeting place outside the home and one in the community.
- Stay in touch with a family communications plan.
  - Program emergency numbers in cell phones.
  - Learn to text!
  - Have an out-of-state contact to call and check in with.
- Register with the American Red Cross “Safe and Well” web site.



### **DURING:**

- **Inside:** Don't run outside or head for a doorway.
  - **DROP, COVER, HOLD!** until the shaking stops.
- **Outside** Avoid buildings, trees, or electrical power lines.
- **Driving:** Pull to a clearing and stay inside with seatbelt on. Avoid overpasses or underpasses. If power lines fall on your vehicle, stay inside and wait for assistance.
- **Crowded store:** Don't run for an exit. Move away from shelving. DROP, COVER, HOLD!
- **Bed:** Curl up, hold on, and be still. Protect your head with pillows.
- **Wheelchair:** Stay put, lock the wheels, and protect your head with your hands.
- **Stadium:** Stay seated. Protect your head with your hands. Exit when safe to do so.
- **Highrise:** If you cannot DROP, COVER, HOLD, go to an interior wall.
  - Protect your head with your hands. Don't use an elevator!

### **AFTER:**

- Stay indoors until the shaking stops. When safe to exit, use stairs instead of an elevator.
- Put on **Personal Protective Equipment's:** helmet, boots, gloves, goggles, reflective vest, and N95 dust mask. Have a flashlight and a whistle.
- Check for injuries. Give first-aid to yourself and then others (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 and follow instructions from emergency authorities.
- Prepare for aftershocks.

### **RESOURCES:**

- American Red Cross (ARC): [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).
  - ARC Safe and Well registry: [www.safeandwell.communityos.org](http://www.safeandwell.communityos.org)
- Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI): [www.memphis.edu/ceri](http://www.memphis.edu/ceri)
- Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC): [www.cusec.org](http://www.cusec.org)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS): [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

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