

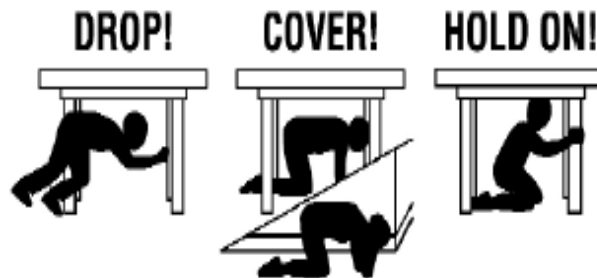


Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

Bob Nations, Jr., Director
1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, 901.515.2525
www.staysafeshelby.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2013



The 1811 – 1812 New Madrid “mega quakes” were so powerful they altered the topography of Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. In a sparsely populated area, frightened residents witnessed landslides, sand blows, and raised sunken lands. Most evident was the formation of Tennessee’s Reelfoot Lake.

Today, a major quake in Tennessee would be catastrophic due to our dense population and the destruction of the infrastructure of transportation, communication, and fuel supply. According to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, if a major quake occurred in our region 560,000 citizens would be sheltered, 750,000 would be without power, 34,000 would be injured, 370 buildings damaged, and 1,200 bridges damaged.

If a major quake occurs here, **are you ready to survive?**

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., invites you to join millions of Americans as they practice “**DROP, COVER, HOLD ON**” during the Great Central U.S. “Shake Out!” on October 17 at 10:15 a.m.

There are 6 steps to prepare, survive, and recover from an earthquake. They include:

To Prepare before the Earthquake:

1. Secure your home: Install latches on cabinets. Secure water heater with strapping tape. Bolt down bookcases. Brace light fixtures. Move breakables to lower cabinets. Make a path from every room through a window and a door. Trim hazardous tree limbs.
2. Make a plan to meet family outside the home after the quake. Know how to shut off utilities. Have a communications plan to contact an out of state relative if you get separated from loved ones.
3. Create a kit for home, work and auto to sustain you, your pets and co-workers for seven days.

To Survive the Earthquake

4. **DROP, COVER and HOLD on!** Have personal protective equipment available to put on (helmet, gloves, goggles, boots, mask, reflective vest, flashlight, metal whistle).

To Recover after the Earthquake

5. Check for injuries and assess the damage. Apply first-aid to those around you.
6. Check on your friends and neighbors. Be a buddy!

The "Shake Out" is supported by the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, TEMA, FEMA, and the U.S. Geological Survey. To register, please visit www.shakeout.org.



End of Release