



For Immediate Release  
September 30, 2015

## Shelby County Office of Preparedness Participates In Communications Exercise

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness will participate in a state-wide auxiliary communications (AUXCOM) exercise on October 2 and 3, 2015. Locally, the communications exercise will be conducted on October 3 at 8:00 a.m. at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Operations Center in east Memphis, 1075 Mullins Station Road.

**“Staff and auxiliary radio operators will be relaying messages to emergency management offices in Jackson, Knoxville, and the state’s emergency management agency headquarters in Nashville, the primary site of the communications exercise,”** said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

The exercise assumes a 6.5 magnitude earthquake strikes the New Madrid Seismic Zone with the epicenter in the Missouri Bootheel. The simulated earthquake and its aftershocks result in 3,000 fatalities, 35,500 citizens requiring hospitalization, and thousands reporting minor injuries. Numerous homes are destroyed resulting in thousands of citizens displaced and requiring shelter. Across the region water, food, and generator shortages are reported.

The “AUXCOM” exercise will test communications systems across the state of Tennessee during a widespread disaster, such as an earthquake.

For more information, please call Shannon Towery, Preparedness Officer, at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness at 901.222.6700.

**End of Release**