



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

CUSEC

a partnership to mitigate disasters and save lives....

2630 East Holmes Road

Memphis, TN 38118

Voice: (901) 544-3570

Fax: (901) 544-0544

E-Mail: cusec@cusec.org

Website: www.cusec.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For inquiries contact
Jim Wilkinson, (901) 544-3570

Central U.S. States to Conduct Large Scale Earthquake Exercise June 16-20

Memphis, Tenn.—Next week, the [Central United States Earthquake Consortium](http://www.cusec.org) (CUSEC) and our Member and Associate States, along with the [Department of Homeland Security](http://www.dhs.gov) (DHS), [Federal Emergency Management Agency](http://www.fema.gov), [US Geological Survey](http://www.usgs.gov), other Federal agencies, volunteer organizations, and the private sector will begin a week-long disaster response and recovery exercise known as CAPSTONE-14.

Under the direction of the CUSEC Board of Directors, CAPSTONE-14 is based upon the occurrence of a damaging earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ) and is the culmination of three years of multi-state planning and preparedness lead-up activities. The exercise will be conducted from Monday, June 16 to Friday, June 20, 2014 in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

According to CUSEC Executive Director Jim Wilkinson, “CAPSTONE-14 demonstrates the dedication of our States to address the shared earthquake risk faced in the central U.S. It's not just a west coast hazard as many might believe—damaging earthquakes have and will occur again in the central U.S. and we need to be ready.”

Not only does CAPSTONE-14 assess response and recovery capabilities both nationally and regionally, it builds off of lessons learned during the New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Planning Project and National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE11) and completes the full planning, training, and exercise cycle, while serving as a regional and national model to the emergency management community. The primary focus areas of CAPSTONE-14 include:

- Regional Communications
- Regional Situational Awareness
- Regional Transportation
- Private Sector Integration
- Regional Resource Management
- Regional Defense Support of Civil Authorities

CAPSTONE also supports [Presidential Policy Directive 8](http://www.fema.gov) (PPD8), and includes mitigation, preparedness, recovery and response planning activities that directly support the [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](http://www.fema.gov) (NEHRP). The effort has also improved post-disaster building inspection capabilities and the adoption of seismic building codes, which enhance community resilience.

For more information about CAPSTONE-14, visit www.cusec.org/capstone or call (901) 544-3570.

###

About CUSEC

Established in 1983 with funding support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, CUSEC's primary mission is, "... the reduction of deaths, injuries, property damage and economic losses resulting from earthquakes in the Central United States." CUSEC Member States are those most vulnerable to the effects of earthquakes in the region and include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.