

Great *ShakeOut*” Earthquake Drill Set for October 17

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security announced today that the fourth *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* earthquake drill is scheduled for **Thursday, October 17, 2013, at 10:17 a.m. local time**. Individuals and communities throughout 10 states in the central U.S. will take part in the drill, designed to encourage participants to take steps to become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters.

During the self-led drill, participants practice how to “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**”. Endorsed by emergency officials and first responders, the proper response to an earthquake is to:

- **Drop** to the ground
- Take **Cover** under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck
- **Hold On** until the shaking stops

To take part in the *ShakeOut*, individuals and organizations are asked to sign up to participate in the drill by visiting getprepared.in.gov. Once registered, participants receive information about showcase events in their area and regular information on how to plan their drill and become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters. Participants include individuals, schools, businesses, local and state government agencies, and many other groups.

“Being prepared for an earthquake means you’re prepared for the hazards Indiana faces each year,” said IDHS Senior Public Information Officer John Erickson. “Many of the same preparations for an earthquake apply to tornadoes, flooding and winter storms. A large earthquake in or near Indiana could have a major impact on the population and national transportation, communication, utility, and financial systems. The *ShakeOut* is a great annual event to help keep Hoosiers thinking about preparing for earthquakes and other possible emergencies.”

Nearly 3 million people participated in the third *Central U.S. ShakeOut* in February 2013, which was coordinated by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) and the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. To align with other states and regions throughout the country, Erickson said the *Central U.S. ShakeOut* will occur the third Thursday of October going forward. So this drill will include not only 10 states in the central U.S. but also 40 other states and territories nationwide, with about 12 million expected participants.

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