

# EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

## What should I do during an earthquake?

Stay calm and expect an earthquake to last for a few seconds up to a few minutes.

### Drop

Drop down onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down). This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.



### Cover

Cover your head and neck (and your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk. If there is no shelter nearby, only then should you get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.

### Hold On

Hold on to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

When driving, stop safely as soon as possible. Stay in the vehicle until shaking stops. Do not stop vehicles under overpasses or on bridges.

## What is an earthquake?

An earthquake can be caused by a crack or rupture in Earth's tectonic plates, or when tectonic plates push against each other. Earthquakes in the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone are caused by cracks or ruptures.

There is nothing we can do to predict or prevent an earthquake from occurring; however, there are many things we can do to prepare for an earthquake that can keep us safe if one occurs.

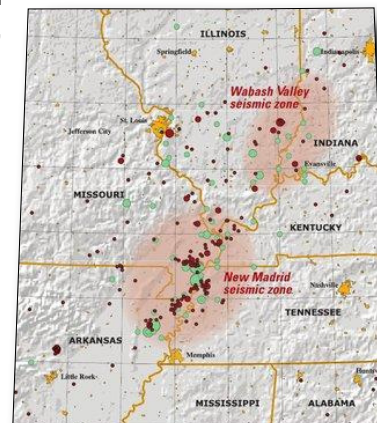
## What could happen?

The most common effect people feel is shaking. In addition, earthquakes may cause buildings to collapse, gas lines to rupture, roadways to crack and heave, or power lines to fall. After the initial earthquake, several aftershocks may be felt. These aftershocks may be as strong as the initial earthquake.

## What areas are affected?

The New Madrid Seismic Zone is approximately 40 miles wide and 200 miles long. It extends from southeastern Missouri, northeastern Arkansas, western Tennessee, western Kentucky and southern Illinois. In the winter of 1811-12, three large earthquakes (magnitude 7.5-8.0) and thousands of aftershocks rocked this region. Damage related to these earthquakes was reported as much as 1,000 miles away.

The Wabash Valley Seismic Zone is located in southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana and is capable of producing a "New Madrid" size earthquake.



## What should I do after an earthquake?

- Check for injuries and render first aid.
- Avoid other hazards (fire, chemical spills, etc.).
- Check utilities (gas, water, electricity). If safe, shut utilities off at the source.
- Turn on a battery-powered radio and listen for public information broadcasts from emergency officials. **STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES.**
- Check food and water supplies.
- Do not use matches, candles or lighters inside.
- Do not use vehicles unless there is a life-threatening emergency.



April 18, 2008 Recorded IL Earthquake

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## Where can I get more information?

Ready Illinois

[www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov)

Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC)

[www.cusec.org](http://www.cusec.org)

Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS)

[www.isgs.uiuc.edu](http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu)

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

[www.earthquake.usgs.gov](http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov)

## Emergency Contact Numbers

Police \_\_\_\_\_

Fire \_\_\_\_\_

EMA \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Public Works \_\_\_\_\_

Gas \_\_\_\_\_

Water \_\_\_\_\_

Electric \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Contact Numbers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

## How do I prepare?

There are several simple and inexpensive steps you can take to prepare for an earthquake, including:

- Plan to hold earthquake drills for your family and business
- Develop a family reunification plan
- Make your home and business earthquake safe with such actions as:
  - Strapping water heaters and large appliances to wall studs
  - Anchoring overhead light fixtures
  - Fastening shelves to wall studs and securing cabinet doors with latches
- Learn how to shut off gas, water and electricity in case the lines are damaged
- Assemble emergency supplies that will last at least 72 hours
- Have a battery-operated radio (and extra batteries) available for public information broadcasts

## Emergency Supply Checklist

Stocking up now with emergency supplies can add to your safety and comfort during and after an earthquake. Be sure to store enough supplies for at least 72 hours.

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food (canned or packaged food that will not spoil, including items for special diets and high-energy foods such as candy, nuts or raisins)
- First aid kit
- Manual can opener
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Portable radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Essential medications and eye glasses
- Type A-B-C fire extinguisher
- Food and water for pets
- Money (small bills)
- Knife
- Axe and shovel
- Crescent wrench for turning off gas
- Rope, 1/2" thickness
- Garden hose for siphoning and fire fighting
- Plastic tape and sheeting
- Toys, games and books for children
- Pencil and paper