

## What should I do during an earthquake?

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

### *Duck*

Duck or drop down to the floor.



### *Cover*

Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. Protect your head and neck with your arms.



Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture.

### *Hold*

If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, hold on to it and be prepared to move with it.



HOLD the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.

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 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.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

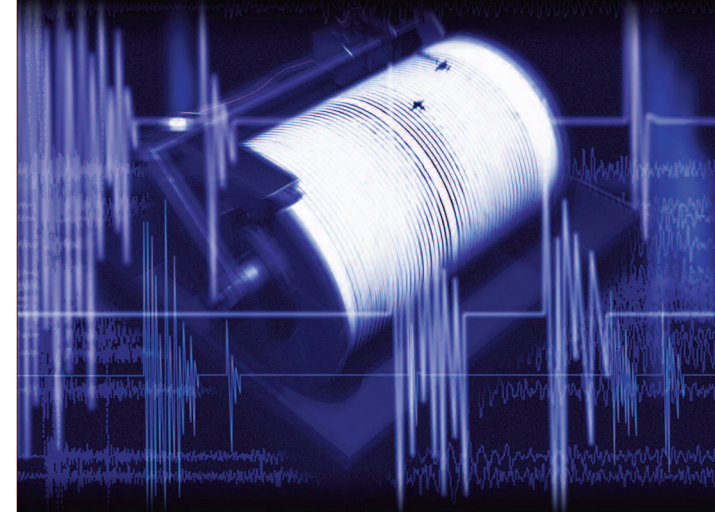
Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois  
IOCI 0334-10 - 10/09 - PO# 1101 - 1,500



State of Illinois  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

# Earthquake



## Awareness and Preparedness Guide



## What is an earthquake?

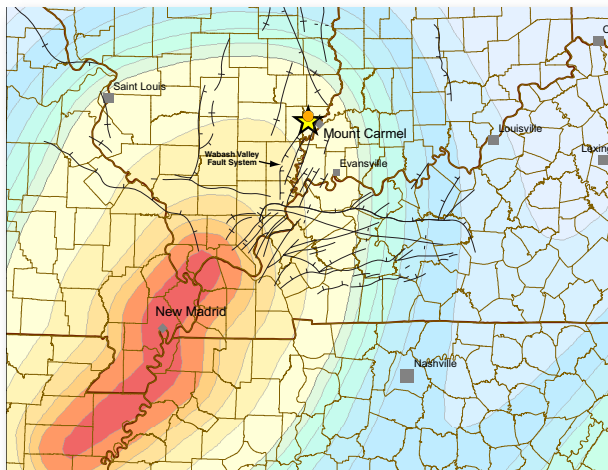
An earthquake can be caused by a crack or rupture in Earth's tectonic plates, or when tectonic plates push against each other. Earthquakes in the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone are caused by cracks or ruptures.

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 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.



Source: Illinois State Geological Survey

## 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.

## 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 a disaster kit with supplies that will last at least 72 hours
- Have a battery-operated radio (and extra batteries) available for public information broadcasts

## Disaster kit

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.

### *Emergency Supplies*

- 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, ½" thickness
- Garden hose for siphoning and fire fighting
- Plastic tape and sheeting
- Toys, games and books for children
- Pencil and paper