

Earthquake Information Bulletin

Current Earthquake Information

- Magnitude
- Location
- Damage and felt reports
- Aftershocks: Aftershocks are likely after any large earthquake. They generally are smaller than the original earthquake and decrease in size and frequency with time, but they can cause damage to already weakened structures
 - Map of epicenter?

New Madrid Seismic Zone Facts

- The New Madrid seismic zone stretches from just west of Memphis, TN, into southern Illinois and experiences between 150 and 200 earthquakes annually
- A series of large earthquakes struck the region in 1811 and 1812. They had magnitudes between 7.5 and 8.0 and were felt across the eastern third of the U.S. Other damaging quakes occurred in 1843 and 1895.
- The likelihood of a large earthquake occurring in the New Madrid region for a 50-year time period is
 - For a repeat of the 1811-1812 earthquakes (magnitude 7.5-8.0) = 7-10%
 - For a magnitude 6.0 or larger = 25-40%
- Earthquake Hazards
 - Earthquake hazard refers to the consequences of an earthquake that may disrupt the normal activities of people or cause them loss
 - Most damage is due to ground shaking caused by waves that emanate from abrupt fault movement during an earthquake

Earthquake Safety and Emergency Information

- During an earthquake
 - Stay calm
 - Inside, stand in doorway or crouch under a desk or table well away from glass
 - Outside, stand away from buildings, trees, telephones, and electrical lines
 - On road, drive away from underpasses/overpasses, stop in safe area, stay in vehicle
- After an earthquake
 - Check for injuries, provide first-aid, wear shoes
 - Check for gas, water, and sewage breaks; downed power lines and shorts; turn off appropriate utilities
 - Check for building damage and potential problems during aftershocks
 - If the building is damaged and poses a risk exit and find a safe area
 - Turn on a radio and listen for instructions from public safety agencies

For more information:

- Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI) 901-678-2007; website <http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/>
- United States Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Program; website <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>