

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Tennesseans Make Earthquake Preparedness a Priority with Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

*Citizens, Businesses, and Communities Encouraged to Register and Participate at [www.shakeout.org/centralus](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus)*

**NASHVILLE, TENN.** – Tennessee will be among 14 central and southern U.S. states on Thursday, Oct., 18, 2018, coordinating the eighth annual *Great Central U.S. ShakeOut* drill to raise awareness about the importance of catastrophic earthquake preparedness.

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) is working currently to register businesses, communities, individuals, organizations, and schools for the ShakeOut drill so they can learn how to prevent damage and injuries in the event of a catastrophic earthquake.

“Major earthquakes have impacted Tennessee, having major impacts to our state – even reshaping its geography and can still happen at any time,” TEMA Director Patrick Sheehan said. “Preparing is simple if you take the time now, before the ground starts shaking, to learn how you can protect yourself, your family, your business and your community.”

During the ShakeOut drill, participants will practice the **Drop, Cover, and Hold On** technique, which is the proper self-protection measure in an earthquake. The technique’s actions are:

- **DROP** to the ground;
- Take **COVER** under a sturdy desk or table, or cover your head and neck with your arms; and,
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops.

To date, more than 411,000 Tennessee participants are registered for the ShakeOut.

The ShakeOut is free and open-to-the-public. To participate, individuals and organizations can register at [www.shakeout.org/centralus](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus). Once registered, participants receive regular information on how to plan their drill and become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters.

(more)

TEMA is coordinating the ShakeOut in Tennessee with the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and its Member and Associate States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and dozens of other partners.

Other states participating in the ShakeOut include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Missouri, Ohio, and Oklahoma.

**About the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency:** TEMA's mission is to coordinate preparedness, response and recovery from man-made, natural and technological hazards in a professional and efficient manner in concert with our stakeholders. Follow TEMA on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#), and at [www.tn.gov/tema](http://www.tn.gov/tema).

**About ReadyTN:** ReadyTN is a mobile device application from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) providing emergency preparedness, response, and recovery information to Tennesseans. Ready TN is available for mobile devices running Apple and Android operating systems. For more information on ReadyTN's features and on downloading, visit [www.tn.gov/tema/ready-tn.html](http://www.tn.gov/tema/ready-tn.html).

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