



Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

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SEMA's Homepage: sema.dps.mo.gov

Earthquake Safety Talking Points after Illinois 5.2 EQ

Jefferson City-On Friday April 18, many areas of Missouri experienced the effects of a 5.2 magnitude earthquake, as well a 4.5 magnitude aftershock, in southeastern Illinois approximately 130 miles east of St. Louis along the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. Mount Carmel is.

Citizens should be prepared to put their family plan into action and gather items for their safety kit. A family disaster plan covers what to do, where to meet, and how to contact family members in the event of an emergency. Their emergency supply kit should have bottled water, a radio with extra batteries, a flashlight, prescription medicine and first aid supplies. More information is available at the State of Missouri's Ready in 3 Program: http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready_in_3/

Other messages for area residents should include:

If you are indoors when the shaking starts, stay indoors, away from windows and other hazards. If you are outdoors, stay in the open. As you enter or leave a building, look up because there may be falling objects, glass and debris.

Turn off utilities ONLY if you smell smoke or gas. If you smell gas or smoke, get everyone out of the house then turn off your gas and electricity at the main meters. If your utilities have not been damaged, leave them alone. Gas utilities can only be relit by certified utility repair people.

Check the outside of your home for cracks in the brick veneer. If you have a chimney do a visual check to make sure chimney will not damage your roof.

*If you are outdoors during an aftershock move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires.

*If you are driving during an aftershock stop as quickly as safety permits, and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses or utility wires.

*Here is the link to the Missouri Mercalli Map: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/EQ%20Map.pdf>

* Here is the link to the United States Geological Survey's "Did You Feel It?" earthquake page for citizens to report earthquake aftershocks: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/eqcenter/dyfi/>

Additional Messages for Before, During and After an Earthquake

Before:

- Identify safe spots and danger zones in each room.
- Consider buying earthquake insurance.
- Buy a 20-gallon garbage can to store drinking water, canned food, flashlights, first aid supplies, a battery operated radio, seasonal clothing and blankets. It may also become your "go kit" if you need to leave your home.

- Know where and how to shut off all utilities.
- Be sure your house is firmly anchored to its foundation.
- Anchor overhead lighting fixtures.
- Store bottled foods, glass, china and other breakable items on low shelves or in cabinets that can fasten shut. Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Fasten bookshelves to walls. Brace high and top heavy objects.
- Repair defective electrical wiring, leaky gas and inflexible utility connections.
- Securely fasten water heaters and gas appliances to wall studs.
- Keep some cash on hand, banks may not be open and businesses may not be able to immediately accept credit cards for purchases.
- Establish a savings account for post catastrophic expenses not covered by earthquake insurance.

During:

- If indoors – take cover under sturdy furniture or against an inside wall, hold on, **“Drop, Cover and Hold.”** Stay away from the kitchen!
- If outdoors – stay there. Move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires.
- In a high-rise building – take cover under sturdy furniture away from windows and outside walls. Stay in the building on the same floor. An evacuation may not be necessary. Wait for instructions from safety personnel. Do not use elevators.
- In a vehicle – stop as quickly as safety permits, and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses or utility wires.

After:

- Check for injuries to yourself and those around you.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Wear sturdy shoes in areas covered with fallen debris and broken glass.
- If the electricity is out – use flashlights or battery operated lanterns. Check the main utility panel.
- If water pipes are damaged – shut off the water supply at the main valve.
- Check your home, your chimney for structural damage and your appliances for damage.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline and other flammable liquids.
- Do not flush toilets until you know the sewage lines are intact.
- Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
- Use the phone only to report a life-threatening emergency.
- Listen to the news reports for the latest emergency information.
- Stay off the streets - do not go sightseeing.