



Madison County is subject to earthquake damage. The New Madrid Fault, which runs from Marked Tree, Arkansas to Cairo, Illinois, is the primary concern. A major earthquake there is expected to cause minor damage here. No buildings are expected to collapse but some older or weak buildings could suffer damage. Chimneys could fall and plaster walls, etc. could crack. To our east, the Pulaski Fault runs along Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee down through Sand Mountain into DeKalb County, Alabama.

A reliable method to predict earthquakes does not exist. Normally, the first indication of an earthquake is the ground shaking or building swaying.

Most casualties and injuries result from being hit by falling objects and debris from damaged buildings.

During an Earthquake:

- Stay calm.
- Stay inside and take cover under a heavy table, desk or bench, etc. or in an interior corner of a room. Stay away from windows and objects that may fall on you.
- Do not leave the building until the tremors stop. Then, exit calmly (never use the elevator.) Gather at the assembly point.
- Once outdoors, move away from buildings, trees and utility poles. Stay in open areas.
- If safe to do so, shut off electric, gas and water service to your house. Be alert for downed live powerlines or gas leaks.
- Be alert for fire; extinguish fires if possible. Gather fire extinguishers, water buckets and other fire-fighting equipment. Organize a Fire Watch with your neighbors.
- If in a car, stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the car. Seek an open space after the shaking stops.
- Be cautious of downed power lines.
- Be alert for additional shaking and damage caused by aftershocks that may come hours, days or weeks later.

Preparedness Checklist:

- There are four basic steps you can take to be more prepared for an earthquake: Secure your space by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.**
- Plan to be safe by creating a disaster plan and deciding how you will communicate in an emergency.**
- Organize disaster supplies in convenient locations.**
- Minimize financial hardship by organizing important documents, strengthening your property, and considering insurance.**