



ARE YOU READY FOR THE GREAT QUAKE?

WILL YOU SURVIVE?

Greene County is in both the New Madrid and Wabash Valley Seismic Earthquake Zones. That means we are in the hot zone when the earthquake hits. Seismologists predict the earthquake will happen at any time. In fact, depending on the magnitude of the earthquake, Greene County is in the number two zone for damages--and damages could be severe such as rupturing gas lines, interrupting electrical service for several days, even weeks.

Wikipedia reports:

In a report filed in November 2008, the U.S. [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) warns that a serious earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone could inflict *"the highest economic losses due to a natural disaster in the United States."*

Bridges could collapse and roads could be unusable. If electricity goes, gasoline cannot be pumped, ATMs will not work, grocery stores will not be able to keep food cold, and the shelves could be bare in hours, etc. All commerce could come to a grinding halt. You might not have heating or cooling in your home for weeks. **What will you do?**

WHAT CAN YOU DO? PLENTY! Here are some tips to prepare for before, during, and after the earthquake. What you know may save you and your loved ones' lives.

BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE

Get earthquake insurance. Your home is your greatest asset. However, most homeowner's insurance policies do not automatically cover earthquakes. You must get it as additional coverage. Such coverage is not expensive, but if you do not have it when the earthquake hits, you won't be protected. Talk to your insurance agent. If you rent or have a mobile home, check with your insurance agent. Video your home and store the video off-site (like in a bank safety deposit box) to have a record for your insurance company of your losses. They will want a record of your losses.

Strap your hot water heater to the wall with strap steel (found at a hardware store). It may be your only source of water if your water pipes rupture.

Remove heavy objects on high shelves and especially above beds. When they fall, they can injure or kill. Heavy pictures, mirrors, etc., should not be hung over places where people, especially children, sit or sleep.

Televisions, stereos, computers, microwaves, and other heavy and costly-to-replace electronics can be secured with flexible nylon straps and buckles. Keep a pair of shoes by your bed to protect your feet from broken glass if the earthquake hits at night.

Learn how to shut off your gas at the valve with a wrench and keep the wrench in an easily-accessible location. Show everyone in your household where it is and how to use it.

Have flashlights, batteries, emergency radios, blankets, and two weeks' supply of canned food, and bottled water, on hand. Also, have a manual non-electric can opener.

Get a propane generator for your home to provide auxiliary power. Connect the propane to the generator by flexible pipe. Propane is stored on your site. Natural gas comes from pipelines in the southern part of the United States. Those lines can sever in many places along the fault line. Also, have a propane grill for emergency cooking.

DURING THE EARTHQUAKE

When the earthquake starts, get under a heavy table, and cover the back of your head with your hands. If you don't have a table, cover your head with pillows or cushions. If you are inside, stay in. If you are outside, stay out until the earthquake is over. Stay calm.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Check yourself and others for injuries. Provide first aid for anyone who needs it.

Check water, gas, and electric lines for damage. If any are damaged, shut off the valves. Check for the smell of gas. If you smell it, open all the windows and doors, leave immediately, and report it to the authorities from another location.

Turn on the radio. Do not make telephone calls unless it is an emergency.

Stay out of damaged buildings. Check on your neighbors--especially elderly and handicapped persons.

Be careful around broken glass and debris. Wear boots or sturdy shoes to keep from cutting your feet.

Do not panic if there are aftershocks. It is nature's way of settling down.

For more information go to: the Greene County EMA Website and <https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>

The New Madrid Fault Earthquake: *It's not if, it's when!*



Greene County Emergency Management Agency. Ph. 812 384-4127

Making Greene County A Safer Place To Live

Email: greene-jeans@sbcglobal.net

Website: <https://gcema.ddns.net/>