

Great Central US Shakeout

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

The date for Indiana's event for the Great Central US Shakeout is April 19 at 10:15 a.m. EDT and 9:15 a.m. CDT. Indiana's date is different than the other 10 states because the original date, about 10 days later, conflicted with ISTEP testing, and the Indiana Department of Education and local schools have been one of IDHS's main partners.

This is a **self directed** drill that families, schools, businesses and other organizations can engage in on their own.

Before Your Event

- Talk about how you would Drop, Cover and Hold On.
 - Also discuss what you would do in a car, outside and in a large venue such as a movie theater or concert hall.
- Look to see what's in a preparedness kit.
- Determine what could be changed about your home, school, business or organization to be safer, such as:
 - Moving heavy objects to lower shelves
 - Attaching bookcases and water heaters to walls.

Possible Agenda

- 10:15 a.m. EDT (9:15 CDT), Drop, Cover and Hold on.
- There is an audio file that can be downloaded from the IDHS Shakeout website if you'd like, to play over a public address system or in audio players in locations so all can hear. The audio file is about 60 seconds.
- Or, someone can announce the start and end of the "earthquake."
- Come out from under desks, tables, etc., and talk about things that could have happened re:
 - A bookcase could have toppled
 - Items on top shelves could have fallen
 - **Note: The most common cause of injuries in an earthquake is falling items.**
- After the end of the discussion, evacuate.
 - Be sure to look out for falling objects as you exit your home, work or other building.
- Once in the designated, talk about what went well and what could be improved.

REMEMBER: If you're preparing for an earthquake, you're preparing for hazards that Hoosiers faces regularly, such as snow and ice storms, flooding, tornadoes and other severe weather.

REMEMBER #2: Preparing for an earthquake is not hard. It doesn't take a huge amount of time. Even a little preparation will help. Meet with your family or co-workers about what to do. Start your preparedness kit.