

## NEWS RELEASE



Southern Platte Fire Protection District  
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### **Fire District Urges Preparedness for the Next Earthquake**

Parkville, MO (March 5, 2011) – A series of earthquakes centered in the southeast Missouri town of New Madrid in 1811, caused widespread devastation and altered the landscape of the area.

Steve Besemer, Earthquake Program Manager for the State Emergency Management Agency said it changed the way the land looked and the flow of the rivers.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the “Great New Madrid Earthquakes”, and Missourians are being asked to take part in earthquake preparedness events, including a statewide “ShakeOut” initiative on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Division Chief Dean Cull advises that during the “ShakeOut,” residents should practice the “Drop, Cover, Hold On” technique for at least one minute.

He adds that it pays to be prepared, since another major quake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone is a matter of “when”, not “if”.

“Being prepared for an emergency, whether a fire, medical emergency, flood or earthquake is one of the first steps in protection of you and your loved ones,” according to Cull. “If the power was out, roads were closed or your cell phone didn’t work, how would you communicate to your family?”

On April 28th, at approximately 10:15 a.m. thousands of citizens throughout the Midwest will participate in the Great Central US ShakeOut. Participants will be: dropping to the ground, taking cover under a sturdy desk or table, and holding on to it until the shaking stops.

Division Chief Cull advised that we all must get better prepared for major earthquakes, and also practice how to protect ourselves when they happen. The purpose of the

“ShakeOut” is to help people and organizations do both.

To participate in the event is very simple, please visit and sign-up at the website, contact Southern Platte Fire Protection District or Platte County Emergency Management at 816.858.3521 or 816.858.5848.

<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>

The Southern Platte Fire Protection District's four stations provide fire suppression, inspections, emergency medical assistance, hazardous-materials response, and public education for more than 37,000 citizens in Platte County, MO. The Southern Platte Fire Protection District, which includes Parkville, Weatherby Lake, and Farley, is one of the fastest-growing areas in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In addition to serving its own District, the department provides automatic-aid assistance to the Kansas City Fire Department and Riverside Public Safety.

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