



# EARTHQUAKE SUMMIT 2025

**TUESDAY, MARCH 18**  
**OSAGE CENTRE,**  
**CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO**

**2025 Earthquake Summit**  
**Tuesday, March 18**  
**Osage Centre, Cape Girardeau, Mo.**

**7:30 Registration**

**8:30 Opening Remarks**

**Stacy Kinder**, Mayor  
City of Cape Girardeau

**Terry Cassil**, Deputy Director  
Missouri Emergency Management Agency

**8:45 When the Mighty Mississippi Ran Backward – Learning from the Great New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-12**

**Jeff Briggs**, Earthquake Program Manager  
Missouri Emergency Management Agency

This presentation discusses the threat from the New Madrid Seismic Zone – the nation’s largest active earthquake zone east of the Rocky Mountains. We’ll cover the history of earthquakes in the region, earthquake damage and recovery here and around the world, and how to prepare for the next big quake. You will learn estimated impacts of a large earthquake in your area, as well as strategies for response and recovery. And you’ll have a chance to test your knowledge of earthquake trivia and win a prize!

**9:30 Post-Earthquake Sheltering for Long-Term Care Facilities**

**Wendy Boren**, RN, BSN, Clinical Nurse Educator, Quality Improvement Program for Missouri University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing

Earthquakes and other natural disasters are happening more and more. One of our most vulnerable populations will need our help in these critical moments. This presentation will give you a head start on making sure vulnerable citizens are ready to shelter-in-place. You’ll learn action plans for training, logistical checklists, touchpoints about staff lodging, accessing off-site electronic health records, and most importantly, resident care and identification.

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## 10:15 Break

## 10:30 What Will an Earthquake Do to the Region's Mines and Caves?

**Martha Kopper**, Geology Supervisor  
Office of the State Geologist, Arkansas

The New Madrid Seismic Zone is filled with hundreds of mines and caves. In this session, learn how they may be impacted by large earthquakes, and how we can prepare and respond.

## 11:00 Transportation Lessons Learned from the 2024 Hurricane Season

Moderated by **Chris Engelbrecht**, Director, Safety and Emergency Management Division  
Missouri Department of Transportation

The hurricanes that impacted the eastern U.S. in 2024 disrupted multiple state transportation systems, with the broad damage path creating roadway closures at a level that may mimic a major earthquake. A panel of representatives from state DOTs including Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama will share their experiences managing damage assessments, emergency route planning, public information, and recovery efforts after these major disasters.

## 11:45 Lunch/Networking

## 1:00 New Data on Regional Earthquake Impacts

**Brian Blake**, Executive Director  
Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium

This session features the first public look at all-new data showing potential earthquake impacts at the local level throughout the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Using the latest analysis and an interactive database developed by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, projected impacts for roads, hospitals, utilities and other critical facilities, as well as injuries and fatalities, will be available for a variety of locations and magnitude levels of quakes.

## 1:30 Meeting Your Community's Needs in the Days Following an Earthquake

**Melissa Friel**, Preparedness Div. Manager    **Mark Pethan**, PHEP/HPP Grant Administrator  
Missouri Emergency Management Agency    Missouri Emergency Management Agency

When "The Big One" hits your community, how will you take care of those impacted? Local government will need to provide life-sustaining and essential resources, perhaps for a long time. The State of Missouri has put together new guidance, called the Mass Care and Evacuation Assembly Site (MCEAS) Field Operations Guide, to help local governments understand and access these resources. This session will cover some of these resources, including the Missouri Disaster Medical Assistance Team (MO DMAT), Missouri Disaster Mortuary Response Team (MO MORT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs) and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

## **2:15 Mitigation and Insurance - Building a Culture of Resilience**

**Brian Powell**, MBA, CPM, Catastrophe Risk Resilience Specialist  
National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)

When insurance is available and affordable, it helps to create stability in the market. The earthquake risk, as well as other disaster risks in the region, makes this increasingly challenging. The NAIC is working across the country to create stable insurance markets by using mitigation programs as a catalyst for reducing risk and educating property owners. The success of these programs ultimately leads to better decisions and the development of a culture of resilience.

## **3:00 Break**

## **3:15 PACE Planning and Ham Radio – Communication when Other Options are Out**

**Roger Strope**, Director  
Missouri Interoperability Center  
Missouri Department of Public Safety

**John Minard**, Coordinator  
Emergency Management Training  
Arkansas Division of Emergency Management

**JM Rowe**, Arkansas AUXCOMM / SHARES / ESF=2 Liaison Officer  
American Radio Relay League Arkansas Section

How will you communicate with the world when your cell phones and internet are gone? PACE planning (Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency) is a crucial strategy for ensuring reliable communication during emergencies. By having multiple layers of communication methods, such as cell phones, internet, radio, and satellite, individuals and organizations can maintain contact even when primary systems fail.

The world of Amateur Radio offers many non-traditional pathways for emergency communications. Amateur Radio Operators, or 'Hams,' are located in both rural and metropolitan areas throughout the region. Many stand ready to volunteer their time, equipment, and services in times of disaster.

## **4:00 Earthquake Mass Fatality Exercise Preview**

**Jessica Sexton**, Deputy Preparedness Division Manager  
Missouri Emergency Management Agency

One key aspect of earthquake response planning is caring for the injured and deceased. State and local officials will test existing response plans during an earthquake-focused Mass Fatality Exercise on May 15. The exercise will test operational coordination and communications through the earthquake scenario, requiring the establishment of the state EOC, local EOC/sim cell, Victim Information Center (VIC), and morgue operations.

## **4:15 Adjourn**