

EARTHQUAKES

There are two sensory indicators of earthquakes: sound and motion. Both vary widely. Depending on your distance from the epicenter, you may not notice any sound, or you may notice sounds that resemble anything from a rifle shot to rumbling thunder. Motion may range from a very minor shake to a catastrophic shifting of the earth.

The vast majority of earthquakes in the central Mississippi area are very rare however; substantial earthquakes have occurred in the area and remain potential threats. Should you experience any significant shaking, the following procedures should be followed.

- A. If you are inside, immediately take cover under a table or desk, or other structure that will provide cover from falling objects. In areas where cover is not available, face and kneel at the base of an interior wall with your head down and covered by your arms. Turn your body away from windows and mirrors. Be alert for falling objects and stay away from overhead fixtures, filing cabinets, bookcases and electrical equipment.
- B. If you are outside, try to move to an open area away from buildings, trees, power lines and poles. If you are unable to move to an open area, watch for falling objects, and be aware of possible sink holes.
- C. If you are in an automobile, stop your vehicle in an open area. Stay in the vehicle until the shaking stops. Since bridges and overpasses may have been weakened, do not park under them nor drive on them.
- D. After an earthquake, be aware of the possibility of aftershocks. Survey your immediate surroundings to see if there are individuals requiring assistance possibly: the disabled, those requiring first aid, or those trapped under fallen debris. Do not move injured persons unless they face life-threatening situations such as fires or the imminent collapse of a building.
- E. If it is not possible to render assistance or you judge it unsafe to do so, attempt to contact Public Safety and provide information about the location of individual needing assistance.

- F. If you are not able to contact Public Safety because of power outages, exit the building and make any attempt to contact the appropriate emergency services.
- G. Steps for Evacuating Safely:
 - a. Open doors carefully.
 - b. Watch for falling objects and downed electrical lines.
 - c. Do not use elevators.
 - d. Do not use matches or lighters as gas lines may have ruptured.
- H. Once outside, move to an area away from buildings, signs, trees and utility poles that may pose a threat if they collapse or fall.
- I. Buildings may have experienced significant structural damage and aftershocks are likely, do not re-enter any buildings unless Public Safety or emergency personnel indicate that you may.
- J. The CIMT and DIMT will assemble as soon as possible after the quake at a site to be determined based on the extent and location of the damage. In cooperation with any external emergency personnel available, the team shall direct all post-quake operations including; search and rescue, assistance to the injured, shut down of campus utilities, damage assessments, and communications with the media and college personnel.