THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES. HOME TO A WIDE VARIETY OF GEOGRAPHY, ECOSYSTEMS, AND ENVIRONMENTS.

LUSH FORESTS GIVE WAY TO FERTILE AGRICULTURAL FIELDS. ROLLING RIDGES MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN TO SWEETING STREAMS, COASTAL PLAINS, AND BEACHES.

BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY CONTRAST HERE.

BENEATH THE SURFACE LIES A RARELY THOUGHT ABOUT THREAT—SEVERAL SEISMIC ZONES CAPABLE OF PRODUCING DAMAGING, EVEN CATASTROPHIC, EARTHQUAKES.

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS FAULTS IN THESE ZONES HAVE BEEN SHIFTING AND BUILDING IMMENSE PRESSURE...

...TODAY, ONE OF THOSE FAULTS FINALLY GIVES WAY.
THE TOWN OF CENTRAL CITY WON'T FEEL THE EFFECTS FOR ANOTHER FEW MINUTES.

WAIT, I SEE HER. HERE SHE COMES.

SORRY, GUYS! HAD TO GO BACK FOR MY SISTER'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT. THANKS FOR STICKING AROUND.

AND IT TURNS OUT THE GIFT WAS BURIED IN YOUR BACKPACK THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT, ANGIE?

RIGHT ALONG WITH— WHAT ELSE DO YOU CARRY AROUND IN THERE?

SKATEBOARD, DINER PLATES, BLU-RAY PLAYER, GRAND PIANO—

—THAT AND JUST ENOUGH EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO PULL US THROUGH WHEN THE ZOMBIES ATTACK.

ZOMBIES? THAT THE WORST YOU GOT?
EVERYBODY DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON!
OHHH... MAN.

HOLD STILL, SEAN. LET ME GET MY FIRST-AID KIT.

YOU WANTED TO SEE WORSE THAN ZOMBIES.

YOU TOOK A LITTLE SHRAPNEL FROM THAT LAMP, BUT I'VE CLEANED IT OUT. YOU'LL BE OKAY.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

WHY ARE YOU SO CALM?

WE JUST HAD A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE—AND THERE ARE PROBABLY AFTERSHOCKS COMING.

MY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING HAS BEEN ABOUT KEEPING A COOL HEAD. THIS IS THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP TO SURVIVING THIS.

HEATHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HE NEEDS TO SEE A DOCTOR. WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL. YOU'LL BETTER COME WITH US!

THE ROADS AREN'T SAFE AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW BIG THE AFTERSHOCKS WILL BE.

I'M HEADING TO MY SISTER'S SCHOOL ON FOOT. LET'S GO TOGETHER.

I'M SORRY—I HAVE TO GO HOME!

CALL ME IF YOU NEED ME TO COME GET YOU!

HEATHER!
PHONE CALLS AREN'T GOING THROUGH. MAYBE I CAN STILL TEXT...


DAD
Thank you. Mom and I are fine. House standing. Checking on grandpa.

DAD
Stay safe.

You too. Love you.


UNCLE WAYNE
Thanks 4 letting me know. I've been worried sick. I know I'm all the way over here in Oregon but let me know if there's anything I can do.

Thanks. Don't worry. Will call when phone lines are working.

I know Tani's school is newly built. Hopefully she'll be okay, but will it?

WHOA.
THE RIVER IS FLOODED! I WONDER IF THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH CENTRAL CITY DAM!

HEH! YOU GO GET SOME HELP!

HELP JUST GOT HERE!

STAY WRAPPED UP IN THAT BLANKET UNTIL YOU HAVE YOUR STRENGTH BACK, AND WATCH OUT FOR RISING WATER.

I’LL LEAVE YOU A COUPLE OF PROTEIN BARS. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HIKE BACK OUT OF HERE.
STILL STANDING—THANK GOODNESS. HERE'S TO MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND UPDATED BUILDING CODES.

IF THEY FOLLOWED THE SCHOOL’S DISASTER PLAN, TAMI AND THE OTHERS SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND...

ANGIE!

I'M HERE TO PICK UP MY SISTER. HAVE YOU HEARD FROM ANY EMERGENCY SERVICES?

THEY'RE GETTING TO US, BUT HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH THE ROADS, APPARENTLY.

I'VE NOTIFIED THE PARENTS AND LET THEM KNOW WE'RE OKAY.

WE HAVE ENOUGH FRESH WATER AND SUPPLIES TO GET THROUGH THE NIGHT. IF WE HAVE TO, YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY.

SOME BIRTHDAY, EH, KID?

THAT'S NOT PART OF OUR FAMILY'S DISASTER PLAN. BUT, THANK YOU...
YOU OKAY BACK THERE, BUDDY?

YUP!

Tami with me. Both okay. Working our way through downtown.

DAD

Thank you. FYI Central City Park area impassable. Avoid. Need help getting home?

We're good. Heading Norok on 6th Street. See you soon.

So, this is what liquefaction looks like... kind of like quicksand?

I hope Sean and Heather made it home all right...

}[Image]
Almost there. You did good.

Just like we practiced!

Hey, the guest of honor! We were about to cancel this birthday party!

That tree just barely missed my bedroom, didn’t it?

You’re always sleeping on the couch anyway. Don’t worry about it, Angie—
the important thing is you and your sister are safe. We’ll start picking up the pieces tomorrow.

The End
BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE

- Visit Ready.gov/make-a-plan.
- Make a plan, and make sure everyone in your family knows it.
- Practice it together.
- Buy or assemble an emergency kit.
- Secure objects around your home, such as furniture or appliances, to prevent injury.
- Register and participate in the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill at ShakeOut.org.

DURING THE EARTHQUAKE

- Drop, cover your head, and hold on.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

- Always follow your plan.
- Communicate with others around you.
- Have an out-of-state emergency contact saved and practice calling them.
- You may not be able to call across town, but out-of-state calls should go through. Texts often go through when calls don’t, so text first, talk second.
- If you are near the coast or on a beach and feel an earthquake, move to safety on higher ground as fast as possible—a tsunami may be on the way.

You can do so many things to help keep your family and neighbors safe during and after an earthquake.

- Start a Teen CERT group at your school.
- Take a first-aid class.
- Organize your neighborhood.
- Ask your parents and teachers what their plans are and then practice with them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Visit www.earthquakecountry.org/sevensteps for more information on earthquake preparedness and safety.
- Visit www.ready.gov/cert for more information on joining or starting a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- Visit www.cusec.org/publications/preparedness/go-kit-passport.pdf to download a booklet where you can keep important information you may need in the event of an emergency.
AN EARTHQUAKE IS CAUSED BY A SUDDEN SLIP ON A FAULT (FRACATURE OR ZONE OF FRACTURES BETWEEN TWO BLOCKS OF ROCK) BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. SOME FAULTS ARE CLOSE TO THE SURFACE AND OTHERS ARE DEEPLY BURIED. EARTHQUAKES RELEASE ENERGY IN WAVES THAT TRAVEL THROUGH THE EARTH’S CRUST. THESE WAVES ARE THE ONES THAT CAUSE DAMAGE AND SHAKING FELT AT THE SURFACE. ENERGY RELEASED BY AN EARTHQUAKE BELOW THE SURFACE IS DESCRIBED AS MAGNITUDE, WHAT IS FELT AT THE SURFACE BY PEOPLE IS KNOWN AS INTENSITY. AN EARTHQUAKE HAS ONLY ONE MAGNITUDE, BUT THE INTENSITY FELT BY PEOPLE CAN VARY DEPENDING ON A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS.

LIQUEFACTION IS A PROCESS BY WHICH WATER-SATURATED SEDIMENT TEMPORARILY LOSES STRENGTH AND ACTS AS A FLUID, LIKE WHEN YOU WIGGLE YOUR TOES IN THE WET SAND NEAR THE WATER AT THE BEACH. THIS EFFECT CAN BE CAUSED BY EARTHQUAKE SHAKING.

MANY PEOPLE THINK EARTHQUAKES ONLY HAPPEN ON THE WEST COAST. THERE IS ALSO AN EARTHQUAKE HAZARD AND RISK EAST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. THERE ARE SEVERAL SEISMIC ZONES THAT HAVE, IN THE PAST, PRODUCED LARGE DAMAGING EARTHQUAKES. IF SIMILAR-SIZED EARTHQUAKES WERE TO OCCUR TODAY THERE COULD BE WIDE SPREAD DAMAGE AND LOSSES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EARTHQUAKES, VISIT earthquake.usgs.gov.
Here, we highlight the five major seismic zones in the central and eastern U.S. where some of the largest earthquakes in the country have occurred. Listed below are some significant earthquakes that have occurred in the last several hundred years. In the early 1800s, several very large earthquakes struck the New Madrid seismic zone, along the Mississippi River Valley. In 1886, a major earthquake occurred in Charleston, South Carolina, causing catastrophic damage to the city of Charleston. Damaging earthquakes have also occurred in the Wabash Valley, East Tennessee/Appalachian, and Central Virginia seismic zones. Although they don’t happen very often, it is important that we are prepared in case a damaging earthquake strikes again. For more information on earthquake hazards and preparedness visit www.cusec.org.

Panel 1: New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-1812
A) December 12, 1811. Magnitude 7.6
B) January 23, 1812. Magnitude 7.3
C) February 7, 1812. Magnitude 7.5

Panel 2: Charleston, Missouri Earthquake, October 31, 1895. Magnitude 6.6


Panel 4: Charleston, South Carolina Earthquake, September 1, 1886. Magnitude 7.0

Panel 5: Southern Illinois Earthquakes
D) Southern Illinois, November 9, 1968. Magnitude 5.4
E) Mount Carmel, Illinois, April 18, 2008. Magnitude 5.2

Panel 6: Mineral, Virginia Earthquake, August 23, 2011. Magnitude 5.8
RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES TO INCLUDE IN A BASIC EMERGENCY KIT:

- Water (one gallon of water per person, per day, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food)
- Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- Prescribed medications
- Battery-powered radio and NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Infant formula and diapers (if you have an infant)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask or cotton T-shirt, to help filter the air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to create shelter
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Important family documents, such as insurance policies, identification, and bank account records, in a waterproof portable container

This publication has been provided by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. For more information on how to prepare for earthquakes and other disasters, visit [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov).