



DID YOU KNOW?

The worst earthquake in Illinois history occurred on December 17, 1811, and was so strong that it rang a Cairo church bell in southern Illinois. It blew smoke, sand, and coal 30 yards into the air and made the Mississippi River flow backward for a moment.

On November 9, 1968, another 5.4 magnitude earthquake rocked Hamilton County. This earthquake was felt as far away as Boston, Massachusetts, and caused notable damage across southern Illinois.

There is a 25-40% chance of a 6.0 magnitude earthquake in the central U.S. in any 50 year time period.

If you are indoors, follow these steps to

Drop, Cover, and Hold On:

Drop down to the floor

Take **Cover** under a sturdy desk, table, or other furniture

Hold on to that object until the shaking ends



- After the shaking stops, monitor local alerts including your local news and radio stations
- Keep your cell phone's emergency alerts active
- Follow local Public Safety and Emergency Management updates for safety messages
- Subscribe to your community's emergency mass notification system to get real-time trusted information
- Before an earthquake, secure tall furniture pieces and other items that could fall
- Create a Family Plan: Establish meeting points and out-of-state contacts. Practice earthquake drills with your household twice yearly
- Emergency Kit: Store 3-day supply of water (1 gallon/person/day), non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, and batteries
- Home Safety: Secure bookcases, heavy mirrors, and fixtures. Install cabinet latches. Move heavy items to low shelves
- Safe Spots: Identify protective areas in each room - under sturdy tables or against interior walls, away from windows
- Utility Control: Know gas/water/electric shutoff locations. Keep shutoff wrench accessible. Exit if you smell leaking gas

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