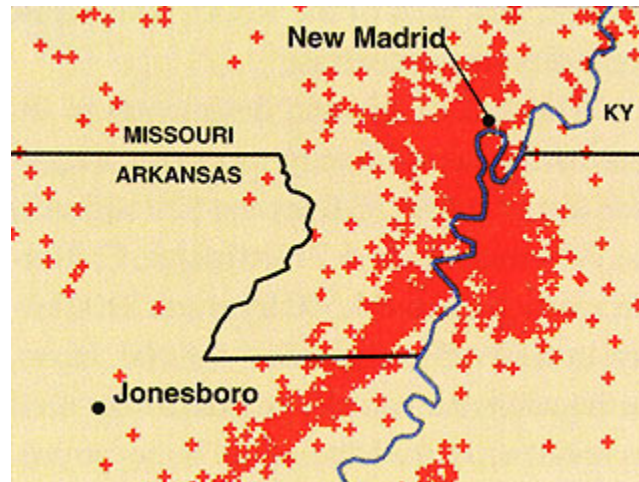


# Earthquakes in Missouri

The highest earthquake risk in the United States outside the West Coast is in the **New Madrid Seismic Zone**, centered in southeast Missouri's Bootheel. Damaging earthquakes are not as frequent as in California, but when they do occur, the destruction here can cover an area more than 20 times greater than a similar event there due to the nature of geologic materials in the region. A major earthquake could mean catastrophic damage in the St. Louis and southeast regions of the state, and significant damage throughout Missouri.

**The New Madrid Seismic Zone and surrounding area in the central U.S. averages more than 200 earthquakes per year.** Most can't be felt, but a few can cause measurable damage.



Experts say there's a **25 to 40 percent chance for a major earthquake** in a fifty year period. The result could be major damage from St. Louis to Memphis. The last major earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone was centered in southeast Missouri, near the town of Charleston, in 1895, so we're overdue for a major earthquake!

**The Great New Madrid Earthquakes of 1811-12** were the largest in U.S. history east of the Rocky Mountains. The massive quakes destroyed homes, created lakes and briefly caused the Mississippi River to run backward. Shaking was felt as far away as the east coast!

*Prepared in accordance with Missouri Revised Statutes, Chapter 160, Section 160.455*

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# Save This Page!

*To help your family survive an earthquake, know what to do BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER a major quake strikes.*

## **BEFORE:**

- ✓ Put together an emergency kit – flashlight, first aid kit, radio, drinking water, blankets
- ✓ Develop a family communication plan – identify a relative living at least 100 miles away; everyone can call to “check in” to tell family you’re safe
- ✓ Make sure all heavy or breakable items are on lower shelves
- ✓ Know how to turn off utilities

## **DURING:**



- ✓ DROP to the ground.
- ✓ COVER yourself under a sturdy table or desk, and cover your face and head with your arms.
- ✓ HOLD ON to something sturdy until the shaking stops.
- ✓ If you’re driving, pull off the road, away from buildings and utility poles, and stay in your car.
- ✓ If you’re outside, drop to the ground, away from large objects, and cover your face and head with your arms.

## **AFTER:**

- ✓ Find your family; check for injuries
- ✓ If necessary, call 911 for help
- ✓ If you smell gas or hear a hissing sound, go outside – shut off gas valve
- ✓ Be careful to avoid live power lines and broken glass
- ✓ Listen to news for latest emergency information
- ✓ Be ready for aftershocks!

