



NLE 2011

Preparedness Matters

December 2010

WHEN:

May 16-19, 2011

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE:

Organizations with responsibilities in critical infrastructure protection including Federal, State, and local government agencies; owners/operators; nonprofit agencies; academic institutions; nongovernmental organizations; and other critical infrastructure stakeholders such as trade associations.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

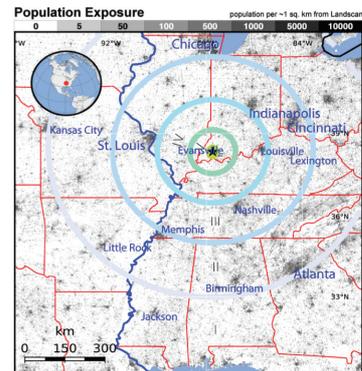
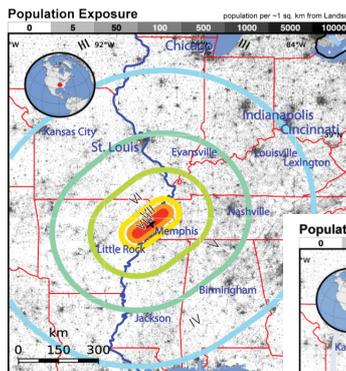
- Learn how to better prepare for an all-hazards event
- Build and foster relationships at the Federal, regional, State, local, and tribal levels
- Practice your business continuity plan
- Increase awareness of how to respond in an emergency
- Protect your bottom line—being prepared will result in less downtime and fewer lost employee work hours

TEST YOUR ORGANIZATION'S RESILIENCE

The U.S. government conducts a National Level Exercise (NLE) each year to prepare for and coordinate a multi-jurisdictional integrated response to national catastrophic events. NLE 2011 will simulate the disastrous nature of a catastrophic earthquake in the central United States by focusing on the New Madrid Seismic Zone and will include parts of eight States—Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee—and four Federal Emergency Management Agency regions (see maps below).

More than 40 million people live and work in the central United States, and a major earthquake could potentially cause unprecedented disruption and devastation to businesses and local infrastructure. To prepare for a national catastrophic event of this magnitude, the U.S. government has several overarching objectives for NLE 2011. These objectives include demonstrating the ability to:

- Maintain a continuous flow of critical information for the duration of the earthquake response operation.
- Execute an effective national media strategy in response to a catastrophic earthquake.



These maps prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey show the areas of the eight states that could potentially be affected by a catastrophic earthquake in the central U.S. region of the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Send your contact information to private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov. Please indicate: the desired level of participation, i.e., national or regional/State level; which States are of interest to you to ensure that you are assigned to the appropriate Exercise Planning Team; which of the 18 sectors you represent or are involved with and other key information needed to design and coordinate your participation in NLE 2011.

QUESTIONS:

For more information about NLE 2011, contact: private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov.

FOR MORE EXERCISE INFORMATION:

DHS has set up a Lessons Learned Information Sharing Web site at www.LLIS.gov. To request access to LLIS, send your request through www.LLIS.gov.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

(Located in Arlington, Virginia)

December 14

National Private Sector Working Group (NPSWG) General Membership Meeting

January 11

NPSWG General Membership Meeting

March 8

NPSWG General Membership Meeting

TEST YOUR ORGANIZATION'S RESILIENCE (Cont.)

- Ensure that affected and at-risk populations are safely sheltered-in-place and/or evacuated to a safe refuge area, and are effectively and safely returned following the event.
- Provide mass care services (shelter and food) for the affected general populations.
- Expand healthcare resources to provide medical personnel and logistics support to deliver triage, treatment, and medical care.
- Implement recovery processes after a catastrophic earthquake, including establishing recovery priorities, assessing the economic impact, and coordinating and implementing recovery and relief plans.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is seeking the participation of public and private critical infrastructure partners for NLE 2011. A National Private Sector Working Group (NPSWG) has been established to ensure collaboration during the design, planning, and execution phases of the exercise. To date, more than 200 individuals have indicated an interest and willingness to participate in this working group, according to Robert B. Dix, Jr., Chair of the NPSWG for NLE 2011. "I believe that the role of the private sector in the design, planning, and execution of National Level Exercise 2011 will set the foundation for future exercises and validate the critical role of the private sector in testing our Nation's preparedness and resiliency forever," Dix said.

NLE 2011 activities will take place at command posts, emergency operation centers, and other locations, including Federal facilities in the Washington, D.C., area as well as Federal, State, regional, tribal, local, and private sector facilities in the eight member States of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC). CUSEC, which was established in 1983 as a partnership of the Federal government and the eight States that could be potentially most affected by earthquakes in the central United States, serves as a coordinating hub for the region, performing the critical role of facilitating multistate efforts.

You can be part of this unique exercise!

Contact: private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov

Office of Infrastructure Protection
Keeping America Safe, Secure, and Resilient
www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure