



# NLE 2011

## Preparedness Matters

### WHEN:

May 16-19, 2011

### WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE:

Businesses, nonprofit agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders from critical infrastructure

### BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING:

- Learn how to better prepare your business for an all-hazards event
- Build and foster relationships at the local, regional, State, tribal, and Federal 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.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Send your contact information to [private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov). Please indicate the desired level of participation, i.e., national or regional/state level. Include which states are of interest to you to ensure you are assigned to the appropriate Working Group. Also include which of the 18 sectors you represent or participate in.

### QUESTIONS:

Should you have questions pertaining to NLE 2011, please contact [private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:private.sectorNLE@hq.dhs.gov).

## PROTECT YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Each year, the U.S. government conducts a National Level Exercise (NLE) to prepare for and coordinate a multi-jurisdictional integrated response to a national catastrophic event. This year's NLE will simulate the disastrous nature of a major earthquake in the central U.S. region of the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ), which could potentially threaten parts of eight U.S. states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

More than 40 million people live and work in the central United States. A major earthquake could cause unprecedented disruption and devastation to businesses and local infrastructure. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the scientific community believes that the NMSZ could experience a major destructive earthquake. Next year is the bicentennial anniversary of the 1811 New Madrid earthquake which, according to USGS, was one of the largest in the United States and, by far, the largest east of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and Canada. By participating in this exercise, you will learn how to protect your business and employees in the event of a natural disaster.

NLE activities will take place at command posts, emergency operation centers, and other locations, including Federal facilities in the Washington, D.C., area, and Federal, State, regional, tribal, local, and private sector facilities in the eight member states of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium. You can be part of this unique exercise.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is seeking private sector participation through its Private Sector Working Group to ensure collaboration during the design, planning, and execution of the NLE, which is intended to test preparedness and resilience.