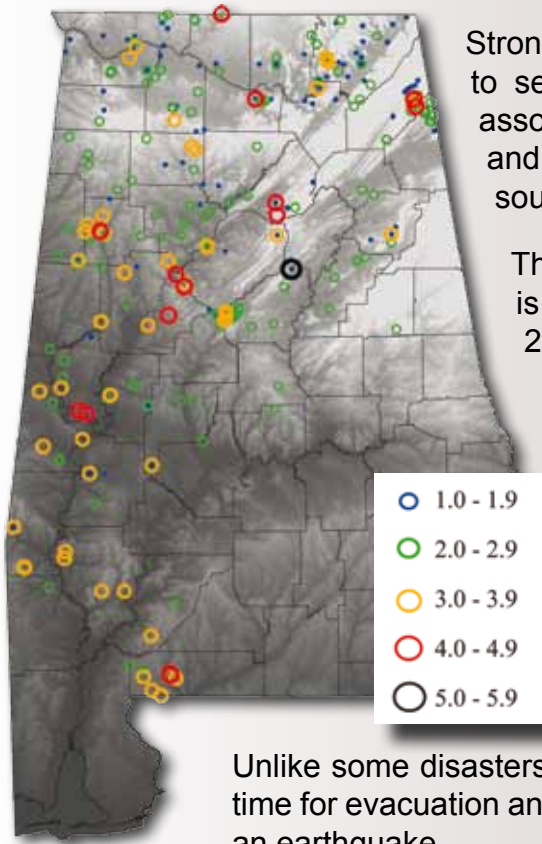


# EARTHQUAKES

Strong magnitude earthquakes are possible in Alabama due to its proximity to several active seismic zones. The majority of the earthquakes are associated with the Southern Appalachian Seismic Zone (SASZ in northern and central Alabama) and the Bahamas Fracture Seismic Zone (BFSZ in southern Alabama).

The effects of an earthquake can be felt in Alabama even if the epicenter is in another state. For example, a 4.9 magnitude earthquake on April 29, 2003, centered near Fort Payne, Alabama was felt in 13 states.



Unlike some disasters, earthquakes are nearly impossible to forecast. Normally, there is no time for evacuation and you must shelter-in-place. Planning ahead is key to being safe during an earthquake.

## BEFORE A QUAKE

- Have potential hazards in your home and/or workplace fixed.
- Create an emergency preparedness plan and supply kit, remembering to include your pets.
- Assist those with disabilities or special needs to make a preparedness plan.

## DURING A QUAKE

- Take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, holding on and moving with it until the shaking stops.
- Crouch in an interior corner of the building, protecting your head and neck with your arms. Avoid anything that could fall, such as light fixtures or furniture.
- If outdoors, move far away from trees, signs, buildings, and utility wires. Remain in the open area until the shaking stops.
- If driving, safely stop the car in an open area, away from poles, bridges, and buildings. If a power line falls on the vehicle, remain inside until a trained person removes the hazard.

## AFTER A QUAKE

- If trapped, cover your mouth and tap on a pipe or wall. Shouting is a last resort.
- Check for injuries, giving first aid when possible. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Check for damage and inspect utilities. Clean up spilled medicine, bleach, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.
- Continue to follow your emergency preparedness plan.

You should discuss your emergency preparedness plan with family members, in the event it needs to be put into action. For information on how to create an emergency preparedness plan and supply kit specific to the threat of earthquakes, contact the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.