



Dallas County Judge Jenkins Urges Residents to be Prepared

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Judge Jenkins, in his capacity as Director of Dallas County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, hosted a conference call with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Southern Methodist University (SMU) and approximately 50 emergency managers from across North Texas at 1:00 p.m. today. USGS and SMU scientists informed the group that due to the relatively shallow nature of the earthquakes recently experienced on the Dallas-Irving line in Dallas County, earthquakes registering in the mid '4' s on the Richter scale could cause structural damage.

Unreinforced, masonry buildings are most vulnerable. An accurate prediction as to when these events will end, when another earthquake will occur or the likelihood of a larger earthquake cannot be made at this time with the information available to the USGS and SMU.

“I encourage our residents to review important earthquake preparedness and safety information from FEMA and the American Red Cross and plan accordingly,” said Jenkins.

Here are some important earthquake preparedness tips:

- Have an emergency kit that includes items such as bottled water, several days' worth of food, a flashlight, a first aid kit, pet food, and a battery powered radio (*for full list go to www.Ready.gov*)
- Fasten shelves, mirrors and other heavy objects securely to walls
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves
- Locate safe spots in each room under a sturdy table or against an inside wall
- Hold earthquake drills with your family members: **Drop, cover and hold on!**
 - **DROP** to your hands and knees
 - **COVER** your head and neck with your arms and only move if you need to get away from the danger of falling objects
 - **HOLD ON** to any sturdy shelter until the shaking stops

If you find yourself in an earthquake, it's important to remember these DOs and DO NOTs:

- **DO** drop, cover and hold on!
- **DO** stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls
- **DO NOT** get in a doorway
- **DO** stay inside until the shaking stops
- **DO NOT** use the elevators.
- If outside, **DO** move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires

Find more information on how to prepare for and respond to an earthquake at the following websites:

- www.Ready.gov (Spanish language site www.Listo.gov)
- <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/earthquake>
- http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1508-20490-0627/fema_b_526_eng_r1.pdf