



FACT Sheet

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS WEEK 2012

Schedule of Events for Earthquake Awareness Week, January 8-14, 2012

“An Earthquake can strike anywhere, anytime. Be prepared there are no signs.”

Jamaica's location along the northern margin of the Caribbean Plate and the presence of very active faults on the island makes it very vulnerable to earthquakes.

To create greater awareness of this threat to the country, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) will be observing January 8-14, 2012 as Earthquake Awareness Week under the theme: *“An Earthquake can strike anywhere, anytime. Be prepared there are no signs.”*

A series of activities have been planned to commemorate the Week, aimed at increasing the general awareness of the Jamaican public to the importance of preparing for an earthquake:

1. National Church Service:
Sunday January 8, 2012

The ODPEM has partnered with the Jamaica Council of Churches to encourage churches islandwide to participate in observing the Earthquake Awareness Week 2012 in each service. This will be done through reading or promoting the ODPEM's Director General's message which was published in both the Gleaner and the Jamaica Observer newspapers on Tuesday January 4, 2012. The message is intended to inform Jamaicans about the importance of preparing for an earthquake and further promote the methodology of Drop Cover and Hold (DCH). The ODPEM is also encouraging other denominations that worship on Sundays to also partner with us in observing and promoting the message.

2. ODPEM/Gleaner Earthquake Awareness Week Supplement, Western Regional Visit and DAIS Workshop:
Monday January 9, 2012

The ODPEM in partnership with The Gleaner Company will print and publish its first Earthquake Awareness Week 2012 Supplement on Monday January 9, 2012.

The ODPEM in collaboration with the Saint James Parish Disaster Committee and The Sandals Royal Resort will be staging an Exhibition and Presentations on Earthquake Preparedness at the Sandals Royal Resort, Montego Bay commencing at 9:00 a.m.

In addition, the ODPEM will host to a two day workshop scheduled for January 9 & 10 in Damage Assessment Information Systems at its Kingston headquarters.

3. ODPEM/Jamaica Observer Earthquake Awareness Week Supplement, Southern Regional Visit and Public Lecture:
Tuesday January 10, 2012

The ODPEM in partnership with the Jamaica Observer will publish its Earthquake Awareness Week 2012 Supplement on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

The ODPEM in collaboration with the St. Elizabeth Parish Disaster Committee will be hosting a Presentation on Creating and promoting Earthquake awareness among the vulnerable and this will be held at the Parish Infirmary commencing at 10:00 a.m. In addition, an Earthquake Awareness Display will be erected at the Manchester Parish Council and this can be viewed by the general public.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (DRR) located at UWI Mona campus will be hosting a public lecture on Earthquake Awareness in the Blue Room of Mona Visitor's Lodge commencing at 5:00 p.m.

4. Earthquake Awareness Collaboration with Schools and Libraries and Northern Regional Visit:
Wednesday January 11, 2012

The ODPEM in collaboration with the Ministry of Education has requested that schools islandwide erect an exhibition in its libraries during the EAW 2012 and also asked principals and teachers to encourage their students to take part in other earthquake awareness activities that will lead to increasing their awareness to the importance of preparing for an earthquake.

The ODPEM in collaboration with the Jamaica Library Service has requested that Libraries islandwide erect exhibitions at its libraries during EAW 2012 in an effort to increase awareness of the Jamaican public to the importance of preparing for an earthquake. The ODPEM has also partnered with the Special Library Group to do the same.

The ODPEM in collaboration with the Portland Parish Disaster Committee will be staging a school competition and Earthquake Drill at the Port Antonio Primary School commencing at 9:00 a.m.

5. Eastern Regional Visit:
Thursday January 12, 2012

The ODPEM in collaboration with the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Disaster Committee will be staging an Earthquake Information Fair at the Maxfield Park Children's Home Auditorium commencing at 9:00 a.m.

6. NaSIMEX Press Launch:
Friday January 13, 2012

The ODPEM will be hosting a Press Launch at its headquarters to launch the National Earthquake Simulation Exercise (NaSIMEX) commencing at 10:00 a.m.

7. National Church Service
Saturday January 14, 2012

The ODPEM has partnered with the Adventist Disaster Relief Agency to encourage churches islandwide to participate in observing the Earthquake Awareness Week 2012 in each service. This will be done through reading or promoting the ODPEM's Director General's message which was published in both the Gleaner and the Jamaica Observer newspapers on Tuesday January 4, 2012. The message is intended to inform Jamaicans about the importance of preparing for an earthquake and further promote the methodology of Drop Cover and Hold (DCH). The ODPEM is also encouraging other denominations that worship on Saturdays to also partner with us in observing and promoting the message.

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