

After-Action Report

Great Central US Shake Out Drill

November 17, 2021

Summary

On October 21, 2021, Arkansas State University participated in the Great Central US Shake Out Drill. On October 20th, the drill was promoted by the Department of Environmental Health, Risk, Safety & Emergency Management in the Student Union Building.

Participation in the drill was voluntary, and the drill prompt was delivered by text and email using the A-State Alert System at 12:00 pm on October 21. Participants were instructed to Drop, Cover and Hold On in their current location, then encouraged to take a selfie and post to social media using the #AStateShakeOut on social media. A-State also utilized the Valcom system to broadcast messages over the Bell Tower's sound system and through the fire panels in many buildings on campus. The following report details additional results and areas for improvement identified during the drill and its follow-up activities, along with steps to address the issues noted.

Participation

Social media participation was almost nonexistent this year and direct student and faculty involvement in the drill was below satisfactory. Multiple students, faculty, and staff members dropped, covered, and held on during the drill but it was not as universal as it could have been. Promotions provided by the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) consisted of earthquake awareness information and an earthquake kiosk.

A-State's Department of Environmental Health, Risk, Safety & Emergency Management did an excellent job of canvassing the university with ShakeOut flyers. A-State's Marketing Team supported the Great Central US Shake Out Drill promotions by announcing the university's participation in the drill via A-State's daily digest.

Improvements for the Future

Arkansas State University was introducing their new Director of Emergency Management to the campus the third week of October, so he was only involved in the last week of preparations. That error will not occur during next year's ShakeOut Drill.

There was not any communication that came directly from the Chancellor this year. The announcement was part of the A-State Daily Digest rather than an email directly from the chancellor. This did not help

with Red Wolf participation. In the future, direct emails should be part of the communications for the event.

The Department of Environmental Health, Risk, Safety & Emergency Management did an excellent job of canvassing the university before the drill, but we will do a better job of peaking the student's interests in the drills to come. The Emergency Manager for A-State will also ensure that all building administrators are informed to reach out to the Department of Safety & Emergency Management with an update on what systems were working. This is to confirm that all Valcom systems are working at full operation.

The final issue that will be improved upon is the time that the drill will occur. Since the 2021 drill befell on a Thursday at noon, our alert systems clashed with the weekly city test of tornado sirens. In the coming ShakeOut Drills, this issue will be corrected by either scheduling the drill for a different time or a different day.

Student participation will focus on expanding promotional events in the future. Building Safety Committees will be engaged to encourage participation within their buildings and with the students who learn there. The emergency manager will invite administrators in different colleges and at the academic department, level to participate, and guide how different disciplines can contribute directly to the drill and earthquake and/or disaster preparedness in general.

The Safety Office welcomes recommendations for improvement from the campus community. Please email cokennedy@astate.edu with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. If your photos were not included on social media, please send those as well.