



Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

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Blytheville Public Schools first school in Central US to have Quake Catcher installed

North Little Rock, AR – The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) in conjunction with the Central United States Earthquake Consortium and the Southern California Earthquake Center installed a ‘Quake Catcher’ in Blytheville Elementary and Intermediate Schools on Thursday, June 18, 2015. A Quake Catcher is a small sensor that detects ground movement which is consistent with earthquakes.

This catcher is part of a world-wide network that allows people, who also have sensors, to monitor earthquakes in their area and compare them worldwide. Quake Catcher has an alternate training mode which allows students to simulate an earthquake, by jumping to create ground movement, illustrating how seismology works. In comparison to the United States Geological Survey seismometers, which can detect information on earthquakes from a large distance, these catchers only detect localized movement which may require more in-depth research after an earthquake by a geologist or earthquake expert.

The intent is to use this information to provide schools and students with real-life knowledge of how to respond to and prepare for an earthquake in their region. Additionally, important information from these sensors is sent back to California to researchers to advance the study of seismology worldwide. Quake Catchers help monitor activity along key faults or known earthquake areas and provide a valuable educational opportunity for those involved. Currently, sensors are only being installed in select schools, museums, and libraries.

More information on earthquake preparedness can be found on [ADEM’s website](#) or [The Great Central US ShakeOut website](#).

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The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) is the state's homeland security and preparedness agency. The agency works to identify and lessen the effects of emergencies, disasters and threats to Arkansas by developing effective prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery actions for all disasters and emergencies. For additional information, contact ADEM at (501) 683-6700 or visit the website at www.adem.arkansas.gov.

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