STATE OF ARKANSAS
GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MIKE HAGAR
SECRETARY

A.J. GARY
DIRECTOR

October 30, 2026

The Honorable Justin Boyd, Senator
The Honorable Les D. Eaves, Representative
Co-Chairs, Arkansas Legislative Council
c/o Bureau of Legislative Research
Room 315, State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator and Representative:

Enclosed is the annual Arkansas Earthquake Program report as required per A.C.A. § 12-77-107. We provide this report in an electronic version and can provide a printed version upon request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I, or my staff, may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Scott Bass
Deputy Director
Office of Preparedness and Response

To the Co-chairs of the Legislative Council:

In accordance with the House Bill 2032 amending Act 711, the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) hereby reports the following activities of the Arkansas Earthquake Program from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2026, as they relate to specific requirements of the bill:

A. Continued assessment from proper scientific authorities of the seismic risk to the state:

In 2025 and 2026, ADEM maintained its relationship with the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Office of the State Geologist (OSG), and the State Fire Marshal through meetings, email correspondence, phone calls, and educational events.

- ADEM and OSG share responsibilities for the Arkansas Governor's Earthquake Advisory Council (GEAC) meetings.

- ADEM contacts the State Fire Marshal for subject matter expertise, most often to answer questions about the Arkansas Building Code.

- ADEM and OSG continue to coordinate activities involving both agencies including trainings, educational events, and regular discussions of possible projects that might be undertaken with funding available from the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP). ADEM and OSG collaborate to promote earthquake awareness and mitigation throughout the state.

B. Training and education of the state and local government officials, employees, and citizens of Arkansas regarding preparation and protective measures that can be taken before, during, and after an earthquake:

- Earthquake Tabletop Exercise, Poinsett County, Arkansas, February 23, 2026 - To evaluate and improve Poinsett County's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a catastrophic earthquake that results in severe infrastructure damage, including bridge failures that separate the eastern and western portions of the county.

- Arkansas Seismic Building Code Workshop**,** October 15, 2026 - Hosted by the Governor's Earthquake Advisory Council, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management and the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium will bring together architects, engineers, building officials, and others to learn about the latest seismic codes and information in Arkansas.

- Participated with three National Community Emergency Response Trainings - CERT Coordinators discussing disaster preparedness initiatives and CERT initiatives.

C. Planning coordination, guidance, and assistance to all state and local government officials in preparation for, response to, and recovery from earthquakes:

INSPect ARKansas (INSPARK)

Arkansas has had a training program for building inspections for more than twenty years.

The INSPARK website (inspectarkansas.org) enables members to access information, take reassessment tests, and learn more about mitigating earthquake damage in the state. The ArcGIS Survey123 App, the primary means of data collection during training and real-life events, has been successfully integrated into the INSPARK Program. Survey123 App information can be conveyed to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in real-time during a disaster.

INSPARK leaders have continued to work on building a stronger relationship with the American Institute of Architects Arkansas Chapter (AIAAR). AIAAR has established a Disaster Assistance Committee (DAC) whose role will be to support ADEM and the INSPARK program. The committee will explore ways to support members and member firms that suffer a loss due to a disaster. DAC will also work toward recruiting architects to join INSPARK and educating the architecture profession about natural and man-made hazards, as well as the steps these architects can take to protect themselves, their families, and their offices from risks.

Arkansas updates the New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquake Plan

The Arkansas NMSZ planning effort has been moving forward this year. Five of the eight lifeline plans have been completed, reviewed and drafted into the new format. The lifelines include Food, Hydration & Shelter, Hazardous Materials, Health & Medical, Safety & Security, and Transportation. The remaining three lifelines are still under review. ADEM Operations continues to work closely with the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) with the planning of a Resource Allocation Workshop (RAW) that will take place between the first and second quarter of 2027. The RAW allows stakeholders to coordinate resources among other earthquake impacted states and will be vital to deconflict available resources. To prepare for this workshop, ADEM has asked the lifeline working groups to submit their resource capabilities and resource gap analysis. ADEM Field Operations has continued identifying staging areas, currently twelve new locations have been identified and are pending site visitation to progress the logistical portion of the plan. ADEM continues to partner with the Arkansas National Guard throughout this planning effort. ADEM Operations continues to hold monthly meetings to support the progress of the Arkansas New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquake Plan.

D. Coordination of earthquake program activities with comparable agencies of the federal government and other states:

Arkansas Governor's Earthquake Advisory Council

The Arkansas Governor's Earthquake Advisory Council (GEAC) meets biannually. Detailed notes are available from the State's Earthquake Program Manager (EPM).

- The April 16, 2026, GEAC meeting was hosted by Southwest Power Pool in Little Rock, AR. Approximately 40 attendees participated with the following topics presented:
    - Program updates and recent earthquakes from the Office of State Geologist
    - State Earthquake Program updates from the Division of Emergency Management
    - GEAC Working Group Updates:
        - *Goal 2: Support earthquake hazard mitigation*
        - *Goal 3: Collaborate with stakeholders to improve emergency response*
        - *Goal 4: Collaborate with stakeholders on recovery efforts*
        - *Goal 5: Evaluating the hazards associated with earthquakes*
    - Updates from the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC): Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) and training opportunities.
    - Status of the New Madrid Seismic Zone plan update.
    - State Fire Marshal addressed seismic requirements in the State of Arkansas

- The October 2, 2026, GEAC meeting was hosted in Cleburne County by the Office of Emergency Management. Approximately 35 attendees participated with the following topics presented:
    - Program updates and recent earthquakes from the Office of State Geologist
    - State Earthquake Program updates from the Division of Emergency Management
    - GEAC Working Group Updates:
        - *Goal 5: Evaluating the hazards associated with earthquakes*
    - Dam Safety Shake Up from the Dept. of Natural Resources
    - Levee Safety from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ShakeOut

The Arkansas Earthquake Program continues to actively promote the Central United States ShakeOut. This yearly drill encourages people in homes, schools, businesses, and

other organizations to practice what to do during an earthquake and improve preparedness using the “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” methodology. A ShakeOut Social Media campaign has been developed, utilizing NEHRP funds to encourage people to register for this international drill. The PSAs, which can be used across various platforms, are specifically NMSZ-oriented and can be used indefinitely.

ShakeOut was held on October 15, 2026, at 10:15 am. There were 36,936 registered participants in Arkansas. ShakeOut.org offered many innovative ideas and approaches for participating in the drill and adapting it to a pandemic. Participation across different groups was as follows.

Category	**Participant Count**
Individuals	132
Childcare	546
Schools	28,134
Colleges	433
Tribes	0
Federal	118
State	2,191
Local	659
Neighborhoods	0
Businesses	13
Lodging	0
Healthcare	2,921
Seniors	320
Disability	1,220
Nonprofits	100
Preparedness	0
Faith Based	0

Youth	0
Museums, Libraries, Parks	127
Service	15
Animal Services	0
Agriculture	5
Radio Groups	0
Science	0
Media	2
Other	0
Total	**36,936**

E. The dissemination of information to the public about earthquake hazards, especially to Arkansans living near the New Madrid Fault, protective measures, seismic resistance in building construction, and appropriate actions to be taken before, during, and after an earthquake. Along with other matters, the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management shall determine whether it is necessary or appropriate to educate, inform, and equip citizens in this state to deal with an earthquake.

- Lake Hamilton High School, Community Emergency Response Training, April 10, 2026 - Promoting the State CERT program and showing support for their established CERT team.

- Bentonville High School - Community Emergency Response Training, April 16, 2026 - ADEM, in partnership with Arkansas Tech University, supported training that certified select Bentonville High School students as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. CERT teams are groups of trained volunteers who learn foundational skills to help support their communities during a wide range of emergency situations. To further strengthen preparedness efforts, ADEM provided 38 CERT backpacks, ensuring students and school staff have the essential tools needed to continue building their emergency response capabilities.

- Preparedness Presentation to retired ARDOT personnel, September 8, 2026

- ADEM coordinated 96 radio (KDXY-FM and KEGI-FM) and social media (Facebook and Instagram) public service announcement about the October 15, 2026, Shakeout Day, the largest global earthquake drill promoting preparedness in Arkansas

Recommendations for Improvement

Due in large part to the efforts of the Arkansas Earthquake Program, in conjunction with the CUSEC and FEMA, many Arkansas citizens continue to become aware of the potential threat posed by the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ). However, there is still room for improvement.

ADEM recommends increasing public outreach to promote citizen involvement in the mitigation of the NMSZ peril. The Arkansas Earthquake Program requires additional funding for education and awareness activities to build and maintain interest in preparedness against this hazard.

Invitations to GEAC are sent to the Governor's Office and elected officials offices; attendance from these offices would allow the Council to increase its impact and benefit more citizens.