

Madrid earthquake should not pose threat to Nicholas

By Kara Head
The Carlist Mercury Staff

CARLISTE — Predictions of a major earthquake on the New Madrid Fault on December 3 are not a cause for alarm for Nicholas County.

Gene Kelley, Director of Nicholas County Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), said, "People in Carliste and Nicholas County would only get a light tremor from a quake along the New Madrid Fault."

He said people shouldn't be worried about earthquakes even though a major one has been predicted for December 3.

New Mexican Climatologist Ben Browning predicted an earthquake on that day because of the location of the New Madrid Fault within the next fifty years. He said such a quake would measure 6 to 6.5 on the Richter scale.

The Richter scale measures the energy of an earthquake by the motion of the ground.

He said, however, he thinks there is little chance of an earthquake occurring on the predicted date.

The New Madrid Fault runs from near Memphis to New Madrid, Missouri and continues into southern Illinois. It is believed to be about 200 miles long and up to 40 miles wide.

Street said it was responsible for what experts believe to be the largest earthquakes in the United States. Three quakes, each over an eight on the Richter scale, hit the Midwest during late 1811 and early 1812.

Although many people do not believe in the existence of the New Madrid Fault, Street said there are "literally thousands of faults" in Kentucky. He said there is little or no knowledge about many of these faults.

One of these faults was discovered in 1880 when an earthquake registering 2.3 on the Richter scale shook Mayville and surrounding areas.

Street said experts are not sure of the location of the fault but he said it runs through Sharpsburg and just east of Jolly, Kentucky.

"We are having trouble connecting the dots," Street said.

He said there is speculation that an earthquake occurred on the Sharpsburg Fault in the late 1700s.

He said early pioneers and settlers were vague in the recording of the activity. He said he did not think it was a major quake.

"Consequently, I would expect anything larger from that fault."

He said increased public awareness and alarm about earthquakes is the result of recent major quakes in San Francisco, Armenia and Iraq along with expectations of a major quake on the New Madrid Fault within the next 50 years.

Kentucky part of seven

Kentucky is part of the Central United States Earthquake Corridor. The corridor is made up of seven states which share information and work together to prepare for a major quake.

The Disaster and Emergency Services publishes a booklet on earthquake information listed are things you can do to reduce the effects caused by an earthquake.

- Before an Earthquake:**
- Check for potential fire risks. Detective wiring and leaky gas connections are very dangerous should an earthquake occur.
 - Strap your water heater to the studs in your walls. Using metal straps will keep the heater in place during a quake. Provide strong support for other gas appliances, using flexible connections wherever possible.
 - Know where and how to shut off electricity, gas and water at main switches and valves.
 - Keep on hand a flashlight and portable radio, both with fresh batteries; plenty of fresh water and non-perishable foods that do not require cooking; blankets and coats.
 - Place large and heavy objects on lower shelves. Bottled goods, glass, china and other breakables should also be stored in high places or in where they can't easily slide on shelves.
 - Plaster cracks, especially those found on ceilings, should be investigated. Falling plaster could result in injury.
- During an Earthquake:**
- If you are outdoors, stay outdoors. If you are indoors, stay in doors. Most injuries during quakes occur as people are entering or leaving buildings.
 - If you are indoors, take cover under a heavy desk or table, or in doorways, halls, or against inside walls. Stay away from glass, windows, chimneys and other breakables.
 - If you are outdoors, move away from buildings and utility wires. The greatest danger comes from falling objects like outside air conditioning units or outer walls. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.
- After an Earthquake:**
- Be prepared for additional earthquake shocks called "aftershocks." Although most of these are smaller than the main shock, some may be large enough to cause additional damage.
 - Stay out of severely damaged buildings. Aftershock cracks shake them down.
 - Check for injuries. Don't attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
 - Don't check your utilities without first having them shut off. If you smell gas, open the windows, shut off the main gas valve, leave the building, and then notify the authorities.
 - Don't smoke. Glass shards could make a cigarette you last. Don't use candles, matches or other open flames because of possible gas leaks. Double all lines. Don't turn on the lights.
 - If water pipes are damaged, shut off the supply at the main valve. Emergency water may be drawn from water heaters, toilet tanks (not the bowl) and medicine bottles.
 - Check to see that sewage lines are intact before using sanitary facilities.
 - Clean up spilled medicines, drugs and other potentially harmful materials.
 - If your power is off, check your freezer and plan meals to use foods which will spoil quickly.
- According to the information booklet, the Tennessee Earthquake Information Center says there is a 49 to 60 percent chance there is a 6.5 magnitude earthquake within the next 15 years. There is a 37 percent chance of a 6.5 magnitude earthquake in the next 50 years.
- The average repeat time for a 6.5 earthquake along the New Madrid Fault has been every 70 years, plus or minus 15 years. The last earthquake of that size occurred in Charleston, Missouri in 1855.

Will Nicholas County be ready?

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Predictions of a major earthquake have many people concerned about the future of the county.

Street said there is a state-wide comprehensive plan "It covers all things that could possibly happen."

He said in an emergency the mayor and the county judge will be in charge and the state's help will be requested if needed.

"This is a monumental responsibility," Kelley said.

He said the disaster team consists of the Carliste Police Department, the city and county fire departments, Nicholas County Hospital and Ambulance Service and rescue squads.

Mark Hughes, Nicholas County Fire Chief, said an earthquake "would be treated basically the same as a tornado."

Hughes said mutual aid will come into effect in the event of a quake or other disaster.

"All counties would have to come together and work together."

He said the disaster team will be based on strong trial procedures established in early December.

Street said the expected earthquake is a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter scale.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

Gene Kelley, Nicholas County Director of Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), said Nicholas County has a disaster plan that will be used in any emergency situation, including an earthquake.

Kelley said the plan covers medical, food and shelter needs.

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There WILL Be School In Nicholas County December 3 - 4

The Carliste Mercury Staff

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DEC. 3-4?



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GENERAL NEWS

Landfill problems continue

Continued from Page 1

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The reason for that is that the regulations force garbage coming into county and city governments to decide if they are going to pay for the cost of the landfill or if they are going to pay for the cost of the landfill.

Eastern trash can be brought to Kentucky and landfills operating just buried cheaper than in it up."

Neblitt said that the out of state burial is not a way street either.

McConocha explained that Rumpke, which has a fleet of 600 trucks and 1200 employees, often takes Kentucky trucks to its Ohio landfill.

"We don't like to do this," McConocha said, "and we're working it out now where we can keep trash in the states it comes from."

Neblitt, whose firm is in the landfill business, believes nothing would be solved by limiting out of state trash.

"I don't believe we should ban out of state trash," Neblitt added.

"We should make landfill regulations more stringent and we need greater environmental controls on landfills but we need out of state garbage as we can compete."

30 requirements force landfills to upgrade.

The requirements adopted by the Environmental Protection Cabinet in January 1992, the Emergency Solid Waste Regulations require 30 years of monitoring on the site if the landfill phases out soil before 1992 the operators are only responsible for two years of monitoring.

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The reduction in the garbage load will not only make recycling more viable by recycling, but will also extend the life of the landfill by putting less garbage into the ground.

"We believe the Material Recovery Facility will reduce the garbage load by 20 percent," McConocha said.

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