

## **Mid-America Earthquake Center's FEMA Funded Project**

The Mid-America Earthquake Center (MAE) is contracted to conduct "Catastrophic Event Planning Scenarios--New Madrid Seismic Zone Earthquakes" for FEMA through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Engineering Research Laboratories (CERL). The objective of the project is to enhance the readiness for response to a catastrophic event by providing the most realistic estimates possible of losses and impacts, and guidance on response and recovery planning.

Phase I, titled 'Impact of Earthquakes on the Central USA' was released in 2008. It includes an advanced and comprehensive earthquake loss assessment and a response and recovery planning study for the Central and Eastern United States. The study area comprises the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. The study covers four FEMA regions, including regional, state and city (or town) specific studies at the relevant levels of detail. It also includes advice on response and recovery planning at all levels, such as local government, industry, aid agencies, and other organizations participating in each regional scenario. Phase I can be downloaded from MAE's website (<http://mae.ce.uiuc.edu/news/reportusa.html>).

Phase II, not yet released, focuses on assessing selected regions and systems using the Mid-America Earthquake Center's loss assessment and visualization tool. This phase will evaluate and estimate the direct and indirect impacts of seismic losses (such as damage to structures, failed communications, disrupted communication, and fires), identify vulnerabilities, provide advice on response and recovery, and develop requirements for HAZUS development in the short, medium, and long terms.