



For Immediate Release

June 29, 2015

Chaney Again Urges Earthquake Coverage Awareness

Jackson – With a second 3.0 or greater magnitude earthquake striking Madison County in as many months, Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney is again urging Mississippians to check their homeowner's policies for earthquake coverage. United States Geological Survey officials indicate there is a possibility of aftershocks following this morning's quake.

"These quakes are stark reminders that the threat of an earthquake striking Mississippi is very real. What many do not realize is that most homeowner's policies contain an earthquake exclusion clause," said Commissioner Chaney.

The greatest risk of an earthquake in Mississippi comes from the New Madrid seismic zone. The southern end of the 200 mile long zone is in Arkansas, about 40 miles from the northwest corner of Mississippi. According to a 2007 report commissioned by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, if an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.7 were to occur, it would result in over 45,000 buildings in Mississippi sustaining complete to moderate damage. Additionally, it could cause a direct economic loss in the amount of \$9.5 billion.

Many experts acknowledge and agree that it is more likely than not that a major earthquake will strike the New Madrid seismic zone within the next 50 years.

The Commissioner urges all homeowners, particularly those closest to the New Madrid seismic zone, to contact their agents and consider purchasing an earthquake endorsement for their policies.

Mississippi Insurance Department Regulation 2006-2 requires insurance companies to inform homeowners in writing as to the existence of flood and earthquake exclusions in homeowner's policies. Additional information on preparing for an earthquake can be found on the new "Be Prepared" page of the MID website at www.mid.ms.gov.