



FACT *Sheet*

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS WEEK 2013

Schedule of Events for Earthquake Awareness Week, January 20-26, 2013

“7.8 Wi ready... Yu Ready?”

Jamaica’s location along the northern margin of the Caribbean Plate and the presence of very active faults on the island makes it very vulnerable to earthquakes, coupled with the crippling effects of the January 2010 earthquake on Haiti and Jamaica’s role in the recovery process, it is quite timely that the nation pause to reflect, share expertise and ensure that we are ready for this type of hazard.

Thus, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) will be observing **January 20-26, 2013** as Earthquake Awareness Week focusing on earthquake readiness with the slogan “7.8 - *Wi Ready... Yu Ready?*”

A series of activities have been planned to commemorate the Week, aimed at increasing the general awareness of the Jamaican public of the importance of preparing for an earthquake.

1. Island-wide Church Services

January 20 and 26, 2013

A National Service will not be done this year; instead an appeal has been made to churches across the island to support the initiative by way of reading an earthquake message and providing earthquake information to their respective audiences.

2. Parish programme

January 21, 2013

Parish Coordinators will lead efforts with support from Preparedness and Emergency Operations Division under the theme: “*Earthquake Ready Families: Earthquake safe Communities*”. The aim is to encourage families to prepare family emergency kits and communication plans.

3. School Drills

January 22, 2013

Under the title “*Shake Down*”, schools across the island are being encouraged to conduct an earthquake drill or sensitization session.

4. Earthquake Day for Businesses

January 23, 2013

Under the theme, “**Protect your business and employees**”, businesses will be invited to hold “*Brown Bag Sessions*” – lunch with information sessions on earthquake readiness.

5. Symposium

January 24, 2013

A symposium will be held with stakeholders at the Terra Nova Hotel to share findings about the country’s vulnerability to earthquakes, as well as reflect on past events with a view to improving the country’s response and preparedness mechanisms. In addition the Tsunami protocol for Jamaica will be reviewed.

6. Media Seminar

January 25, 2013

The media seminar is designed specifically for active media practitioners to bring to fore a basic understanding of earthquake preparedness and response as well as to share the standard operating procedures in times of disasters.

7. Outside Broadcast and Awareness Desk in Montego Bay

January 26, 2013

A public awareness session in Montego Bay with information desk and live broadcasts

8. Newspaper Features

January 21 and 22, 2013

Earthquake information featured in the two major newspapers during the week