



EARTHQUAKES IN MISSISSIPPI

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This is a list of earthquakes originating, or with epicenters, within the State of Mississippi. Given are the date, location, whether or not it was felt, maximum intensity (in the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale of I-XII), and magnitude (a relative measure of the energy released).

- September 11, 1853 - Biloxi, felt
March 27, 1923 - Wyatte, Tate Co., intensity IV
November 13, 1927 - Jackson, intensity IV
December 16, 1931 - Batesville-Charleston area, intensity VI-VII, mag. 4.7, damage in northern Miss., felt over 65,000 square miles in Miss., Ala., Ark., Tenn., and Mo.
June 28, 1941 - Vicksburg, intensity III-IV
February 1, 1955 - Gulfport, intensity V, felt along the Coast
June 4, 1967 - Greenville, intensity VI, mag. 3.8, felt over 25,000 square miles in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee
June 29, 1967 - Greenville, intensity V, mag. 3.4, felt in 3 counties
January 8, 1973 - Sunflower County, not felt, mag. 3.5
May 25, 1973 - Bolivar County, felt
September 9, 1975 - Hancock Co., intensity IV, mag. 2.9
October 23, 1976 - northern Clarke County, not felt, magnitude 3.0
May 3, 1977 - southeastern Clarke County, intensity V, magnitude 3.6
November 4, 1977 - Vardaman, Calhoun Co., intensity V, magnitude 3.4
January 8, 1978 - Kemper County-Alabama border, not felt, magnitude 3.0
June 9, 1978 - eastern Clarke County, not felt, mag. 3.3
December 10, 1978 - southeastern Clarke County, intensity V, magnitude 3.5
October 12, 1980 - northwestern Pontotoc County, not felt, magnitude 2.1
February 15, 1981 - Clarke County, not felt, magnitude 2.4
January 29, 1983 - northeastern Prentiss County, not felt, magnitude 2.4
February 5, 1983 - northeastern Prentiss County, intensity V, magnitude 2.9
April 25, 1983 - Tunica County, not felt, magnitude 1.6
May 30, 1983 - western Clarke County, not felt, mag. 2.4
March 23, 1984 - Tishomingo County-Alabama border, not felt, magnitude 2.0
September 24, 1984 - northwestern Yalobusha County, felt, magnitude 2.5
May 11, 1986 - northeastern Tunica Co., not felt, mag. 1.6
August 1, 1988 - Quitman County, not felt, magnitude 2.1
August 23, 1989 (2 events) - Pachuta, Clarke County, felt
August 25, 1989 - Pachuta, Clarke County, felt
November 26, 1989 (2 events) - Pachuta, Clarke Co., felt
February 11, 1991 - Clarksdale, Coahoma Co., not felt, magnitude 2.7
December 11, 1992 (2 events) - Belzoni, Humphreys County, both felt, first quake was magnitude 2.4

- March 25, 1996 (2 events) - Clarke County, felt in Quitman and much of Clarke County, mag. 3.5; an after-shock of mag. 2.5 was felt about 30 minutes later
May 13, 1996 - northern Tishomingo Co., not felt, mag. 2.7
August 11, 1996 - southern Bolivar Co., not felt, mag. 3.1
Feb. 24, 1999 - southern Panola County, int. IV, mag. 2.8
January 28, 2000 - Shubuta, Clarke Co., not felt, mag. 2.7
October 10, 2000 - northwestern Lauderdale County, not felt, magnitude 2.3
January 6, 2002 - near Brooksville, Noxubee County, not felt, magnitude 2.2
August 11, 2002 - western Panola County, felt, mag. 2.8
October 26, 2002 - northern Bolivar County, felt, mag. 3.1
February 26, 2003 - Courtland, Panola Co., felt
January 20, 2008 - southwestern Yalobusha County, not felt, magnitude 1.7
May 10, 2008 - Belden, Lee Co., int. IV, magnitude 3.1
June 2, 2008 - near Senatobia, Tate Co., not felt, mag. 2.2
July 27, 2012 - Meridian Station, Lauderdale Co., felt, magnitude 2.1
July 29, 2012 - Meridian Station, Lauderdale Co., not felt, magnitude 1.6
October 9, 2012 - Jonestown, Coahoma Co., not felt, magnitude 2
August 30, 2013 - near Corinth, Alcorn Co., not felt, magnitude 2.0
May 2, 2015 (2 events) - S. Madison Co., both felt, magnitude 3.2 and 3.0
June 29, 2015 - S. Madison Co., felt, magnitude 3.2
Aug. 17, 2015 - S. Madison Co., felt, magnitude 2.6

EARTHQUAKE RISK

The map indicates that earthquakes have occurred throughout Mississippi. It is expected that earthquakes of low magnitude will continue to occur. Many earthquakes in neighboring (and distant) states have been felt in parts of Mississippi. However, the greatest risk to Mississippi from earthquakes is from a strong earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, the southern end of which is about 40 miles from the northwest corner of Mississippi. The great New Madrid earthquake series of 1811-1812 included at least four shocks strong enough to shake northern Mississippi at damaging intensities and be felt throughout the state. The 1843 earthquake at the southern end of the zone shook the northern third of Mississippi strongly enough to cause damage. People in Mississippi should take precautions for another strong earthquake on the New Madrid Seismic Zone.

SOURCES

The listings were compiled from published catalogs of earthquakes. The more recent, instrumentally recorded locations were taken from publications of the U.S. Geological Survey, National Earthquake Information Center, and the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis.

