



FACT Sheet

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Schedule of Events for Earthquake Awareness Week, January 13-19, 2008

“For Safety’s Sake, Be Ready for the Next Earthquake!”

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.

To create greater awareness of this threat to the country, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) will be observing January 13-19, 2008 as Earthquake Awareness Week under the theme: ***“For Safety’s Sake, Be Ready for the Next Earthquake!”***

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

1. JIS Think Tank Session:

This is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at the JIS headquarters. At this Session ODPEM representatives and members from our partner agencies, including the Earthquake Unit and the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB), will be interviewed on the activities related to Earthquake Awareness Week 2008 and wider earthquake issues.

2. Press Conference to Launch Earthquake Awareness Week 2008:

To officially launch the Week of activities, the ODPEM will be holding a Press Conference in the ODPEM Conference Room on Friday, January 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. At the Press Conference members of the media will hear from the ODPEM and several of our partner agencies, including Ms. Karlene Black, Scientific Officer from the Earthquake Unit, who will speak on the status of earthquake research and application in Jamaica. We will also take this opportunity to officially launch several of our redesigned earthquake-related brochures, printed with the help of NEM Insurance Co. Ltd., an invaluable partner in the ODPEM’s effort to better prepare the nation for all types of disaster events.

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS WEEK 2008

- 3. National Day of Prayer for Seventh Day Adventist Churches:**
This Day of Prayer will take place on Saturday, January 12. On this day we invite all Seventh Day Adventist churches across the nation to say a special prayer for God's special intervention if and when an earthquake should occur.
- 4. National Church Service:**
This year's National Church Service will be held at the historic St. Andrew Parish Church, itself a standing symbol of the earthquake risk to Jamaica and the importance of preparing. The National Church Service will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 6 Hagley Park Road, Kingston 10, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. This will be aired live on Love 101 FM.
- 5. ODPEM Special Feature in The News Community Newspaper:**
A special Earthquake Awareness Week 2008 feature will appear in The News Community Newspaper for the period January 13-26, 2008. This will be published on Sunday, January 13, 2008.
- 6. ODPEM/Sunday Herald Earthquake Awareness Week Supplement:**
Once again, in partnership with the Sunday Herald, the ODPEM will publish its first Earthquake Awareness Supplement in the Sunday Herald on Sunday, January 13, 2008.
- 7. National Broadcast of Director General's Earthquake Awareness Week Message on TVJ:**
The ODPEM's Director General, Mr. Ronald Jackson, will address the nation on TVJ on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 8:00 p.m., with his Earthquake Awareness Week message. His message will highlight to Jamaicans the need to be aware of the earthquake threat to Jamaica, especially in light of the recent 7.3 magnitude quake that shook the islands of the Eastern Caribbean on Thursday, November 29, 2007.
- 8. ODPEM/Gleaner Earthquake Awareness Week Supplement:**
Once again, in partnership with the Gleaner, itself a survivor of the January 14, 1907 Great Earthquake and Fire, the ODPEM will publish its second Earthquake Awareness Week 2008 Supplement in the Daily Gleaner on Thursday, January 17, 2008.
- 9. ODPEM Earthquake Awareness Week Open Day:**
This will once again take place in the parking lot of the ODPEM office at 12 Camp Road, Kingston 4, on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. This Open Day coincides with Earthquake Awareness Day in Schools, an annual day created specifically to better prepare our nation's children, through schools, for an earthquake. The activities for the Day will feature exhibits and talks given by ODPEM and several of its partner agencies, such as the Earthquake Unit and the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB).

10. Launch of ODPEM Earthquake Awareness Poetry and Short Story Competition:
This is the first time that the ODPEM is running such a competition. Open to children between the ages of 7 and 12 years of age, the competition will run from Monday, January 14 to March 1, 2008. A panel of judges from the ODPEM will select the winners and their entries will be published in the Gleaner's **Children's Own** in March 2008.

11. Earthquake Awareness Day in Schools:
This is an annual hazard awareness day that will be observed on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. On this day schools are encouraged to involve their students in earthquake awareness activities such as creating original items in song, dance, drama and poetry to express themselves and their vulnerabilities to earthquakes.

12. Earthquake Awareness Day in Businesses:
This is an annual hazard awareness day that will be observed on Thursday, January 17, 2008. For this Day we encourage businesses to take time out to evaluate their level of preparedness and to ensure that staff and clients alike are aware of the necessary earthquake preparedness measures. Activities in this regard include earthquake drills and earthquake hazard hunts. Businesses are also welcome to contact the ODPEM concerning earthquake preparedness talks and presentations to their staff by the ODPEM Training Department.

13. ODPEM/Jamaica Observer Earthquake Awareness Week Supplement:
Once again, in partnership with the Jamaica Observer, the ODPEM will publish its third Earthquake Awareness Week 2008 Supplement in the Jamaica Observer on Friday, January 18, 2008.

Remember:

“Disasters Do Happen ... Be Prepared”

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