



## **Community Safety: Operation Vigilant Guard September 15-17, 2009**

Vigilant Guard '09 is a full scale exercise based upon a 6.3 earthquake in the Helena Valley, which will be held during September 15 - 17. Participants will include Lewis and Clark County, Helena, East Helena, state agencies, the National Guard and the private sector.

The purpose of the exercise is to test plans and procedures to respond to and recover from a major earthquake in the Helena area. A 6.3 earthquake is realistic, because that's what happened to Helena on October 18, 1935, and an earthquake of this size will strike again. We just don't know when.

We know that first response agencies, like fire, law enforcement, medical and public works will be overwhelmed when a major earthquake strikes. Therefore, preparedness is the key for schools and parents.



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