

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: September 11, 2009

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Vigilant Guard 2009 - Montana City School to be a Venue Site for Full Scale Earthquake Exercise

Helena - The State of Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division, in cooperation with Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater counties will be conducting a full scale earthquake exercise beginning September 15, 2009. There will be extensive activities involving emergency vehicles, military equipment to include helicopters, civilian role players and actors.

The Montana City School venue will involve "derailed" railroad cars on a rail spur located behind the fields at the school. Montana Rail Link will be moving the cars into place the afternoon of September 15. The exercise will begin at 6:00 p.m. with emergency response and military vehicles arriving in the school parking lot. There may be observation helicopter activity. The exercise is expected to end by 11:00 p.m.

During this time, the playing fields, trail by the rail spur and the lower parking lot will be closed to allow access and egress for emergency vehicles. There will be an observation area set up. Responders will be wearing full hazardous materials protective equipment and will be focused on their tasks. Observers are asked to please stay clear of the emergency vehicles and the responders and respect the safety procedures that will be implemented.

Other venue sites include the Helena Regional Airport, East Helena Rodeo grounds, Carroll College, St. Pete's Hospital, Fort Harrison, Helena and East Helena schools.

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