

### QuakeSmart Covers Ground in October

Thursday, October 11, drew the FEMA [Ready Business Workshop-QuakeSmart](#) team to Benton, AR, an area recognized as a potential hot spot for seismic activity to deliver continuity planning using the [Ready Business – QuakeSmart Toolkit](#). Businesses, emergency managers, professors, and public officials gathered to discuss how to prepare for potential business disruption in the wake of earthquakes.

Jeff Avery, Saline County Judge opened the workshop followed by presentations by Martha Kopper, Geologist, Arkansas Geological Survey; Scott Bass, Division Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Response and Recovery; Dennis Cavanaugh, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Little Rock; Timothy Lee, Associate Extension Specialist, Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center and Melody Daniel, Deputy Public Information Officer, ADEM.

On October 18, the QuakeSmart team headed to Albuquerque, NM, for a second *QuakeSmart Workshop*. During the meeting, attendees joined more than 50 million people around the globe in the [Great ShakeOut Drills](#).

Expert speakers including Alex Rinehart, Hydrogeologist, New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; Dan Koning, Senior Field Engineer, New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources; Mairi Litherland, Manager, NMT Seismological Observatory, New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources and Jennifer Superales, Response Operations Planner, FEMA Region VI detailed the seismic history of the area and what might be expected from any future earthquake activity.

Wendy Blackwell the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for New Mexico and Roger Ebner of the Albuquerque Office of Emergency Management outlined expected emergency preparedness and response processes and plans.

“The *Ready Business* workshops have been a key opportunity for the public and private sectors to collaborate during non-disaster times to discuss preparedness and build resilience in their communities,” said Eraina Perrin, Private Sector Liaison, FEMA. “As a result, several host communities have decided to continue to meet with the private sector on a regular basis to strengthen these new partnerships, and neighboring communities have volunteered to host future events after hearing of the success of the 2018 series.”

*QuakeSmart* workshops support FEMA’s strategic goal of building a culture of preparedness and are a win-win for all who participate. The public sector meets key stakeholders in the business community to understand their needs, and business owners learn how the government responds as well as how to continue to be key players in local emergency management.

The [Ready Business QuakeSmart Workshops](#) provide tools to know your risk, plan, take action, and create prepared businesses and organizations with information and resources focused on Staff, Surroundings, Space, Systems, Structure, and Service.

For more information on *QuakeSmart* or to host a workshop in your community, please contact Mike Rimoldi at [mike@flash.org](mailto:mike@flash.org)