



[TOP](#)

Did You Feel the Earthquake?

JULY 21ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Did You Feel the Earthquake?

New Madrid, Missouri - An earthquake shook a few places in and around New Madrid around 12:30 p.m. on Friday, July 21, 2017.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the 2.9 magnitude quake hit right along the Missouri-Tennessee border less than a half mile from Point Pleasant in New Madrid County.

There are no reports of damage associated with this quake.

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[TOP](#)

Missouri Joins Five States to Launch Enforcement Blitz Against Speeding

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[Missouri Joins Five States to Launch Enforcement Blitz Against Speeding](#)

Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine!

Missouri law enforcement officials have announced they will conduct a speed enforcement blitz throughout the state from July 21-July 23, 2017. "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" is an intensified effort to crack down on speeding. Similar crackdown efforts are occurring across the region in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Up and down the highways and roadways of these states in the country's midsection, officers will be ticketing anyone exceeding the speed limit.

"Speeding translates to death on our roadways. It greatly reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around another vehicle, a hazardous object - or an unexpected curve. Speeding drivers put themselves, their passengers and other drivers at tremendous risk. All drivers need to be on alert - the posted speed limit is the law. When it comes to speeding, no more warnings and no more excuses - Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine," said Susan DeCourcy, Regional Administrator NHTSA Region 7.

National and Statewide speeding deaths

In 2015, speeding was a contributing factor in 27 percent of all fatal crashes in the U.S. and more than 9,500 lives were lost in such crashes, according to the latest data available

from the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In Missouri during 2015, there were 869 total traffic fatalities with 310 of them (36 percent) speeding related.

"During the "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" blitz in Missouri, officers will intensify enforcement of posted speed limits in Missouri. We'll stop and ticket anyone caught speeding - especially on Interstates 70, 44, 55, 35, where most of our speed-related crashes occur," said Colonel Sandra Karsten of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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TOP

Missouri Expecting Many Visitors to View August 21st Solar Eclipse

JULY 21ST 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Missouri Expecting Many Visitors to View August 21st Solar Eclipse

MoDOT is preparing for an influx of people traveling on Missouri highways on August 21st. Missourians will have the chance to experience a total solar eclipse mid-afternoon.

The beginning phase of the eclipse will start at approximately 11:45 a.m. when the moon begins to cross over the sun. The time of the total eclipse, when the moon entirely blocks the sun's bright face, will begin at 1:06 p.m. in St. Joseph and travel diagonally across Missouri to Perryville at 1:21 p.m.

After the brief moments of total eclipse, the moon will move off the sun until it completes the process at approximately 2:45 p.m. The only time you can look directly at the eclipse without eye protection is during the time of totality and only if you are located in the path of totality.

Events across the state are planned for this unique astronomical event. An additional 1.2 million people are expected to visit Missouri beginning Aug.18 and leaving most likely by Aug. 22.

Motorists are also advised to expect heavy traffic on Missouri's interstates and all roads inside the area of the total eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21. Extreme congestion is expected once the eclipse passes in the afternoon. Viewers of the eclipse should leave early for their viewing location, stay put and then leave late to avoid the heavy congestion after the total eclipse.

MoDOT has safe driving tips on our website, like: Plan ahead and allow extra travel time to reach your viewing destination. For more safe driving tips click here - <http://www.modot.org/eclipse/>.

For more information on the eclipse, visit the State of Missouri website - <https://www.mo.gov/eclipse/>.



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Utility Trucks Added to the Move Over Law - Effective August 28th

JUNE 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Utility Trucks Added to the Move Over Law - Effective August 28th](#)

Missouri - You will have to move over for utility trucks with flashing lights beginning August 28, 2017. The "move over" legislation is Senate Bill 222.

Missouri motorists will soon be required to move over for utility vehicles as part of an updated law designed to make roadways safer for emergency workers.

Under legislation signed into law by Gov. Eric Greitens Thursday, drivers approaching a utility vehicle with flashing lights, such as an electric company repair truck, must vacate the lane closest to the vehicle if it is possible, or slow to a safe speed.

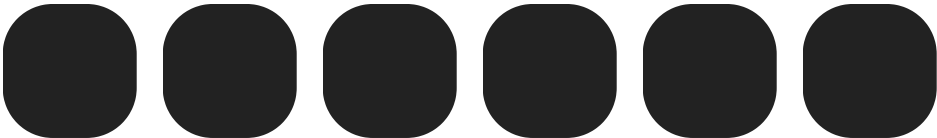
The measure, which goes into effect on August 28th, adds utility vehicles to a list of other emergency vehicles, including police, fire, towing and recovery vehicles, where motorists are required to move over in order to give emergency and law enforcement workers space to do their jobs.

The new law was among a package of traffic and transportation industry bills signed by the governor Thursday, including new regulations allowing farm equipment to be driven on roads after dark as long as they are properly lighted.

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TOP

Japanese Beetles Wreak Havoc on Missouri's Plants

JUNE 30TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Japanese Beetles Wreak Havoc on Missouri's Plants

Missouri - The Japanese beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are two invasive insects that are wreaking havoc on Missouri's plants and trees. To the untrained eye, these two pests may look similar to one another. However, there are a few easy ways to figure out which green pest is plaguing your yard.

"It's easy to tell these two beetle species apart, even though both are metallic green in color and about a half-inch long," said MDC Forest Entomologist Robbie Doerhoff. "EAB is slender and bullet shaped, while Japanese beetles are much wider and have copper-colored wing covers."

Japanese Beetle

Japanese beetles were first discovered in North America in 1916, likely imported from Asia in potted plants. Japanese beetles can now be found through much of Missouri, with high populations in some areas.

Japanese beetles are leaf "skeletonizers," feeding on the upper surface of leaves and leaving behind a lacy network of leaf veins. They can feed upon more than 300 different types of plants and are frequently seen on grape vines, rose bushes, and elm, linden, sassafras, and fruit trees. In Missouri, these pests are usually present in June and July.

"Japanese beetles can defoliate an entire tree in just a few days. Good tree care, such as proper mulching and watering during dry spells, becomes very important in helping reduce stress to damaged trees," said Doerhoff.

For light infestations of Japanese beetles on shrubs and small trees, Doerhoff recommends hand-picking beetles and putting them in soapy water. While several insecticides are available to control these pests, caution is in order.

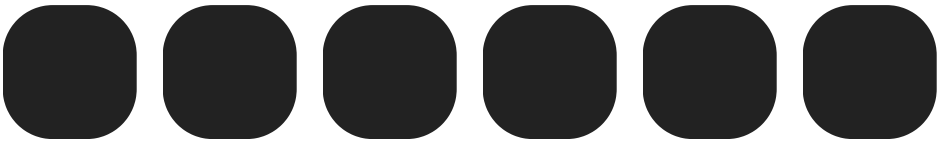
"If you decide to use insecticides, select a product labeled for Japanese beetles and the plant type you want to protect. To avoid killing beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies, don't apply insecticides to blooming plants," she said.

Circle G located on Market Street behind Busy B has Japanese Beetle Traps for just a few dollars and rumor is they work GREAT!!!

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