



NEWS RELEASE

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Sign up now for Oct. 17 *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*

Virginia leads in registrations for multi-state earthquake drill

RICHMOND, Va. – With less than a month to go until the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* set for Thursday, **Oct. 17 at 10:17 a.m.**, Virginia holds a substantial lead in southeastern states that are participating in the simultaneous earthquake drill.

More than **680,000** Virginians have signed up to practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**,” the recommended response to an earthquake. A total of **970,000** people have signed up so far from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The drill is open to all. Individuals, families, businesses, organizations, schools and colleges, and government agencies can sign up at www.shakeout.org/southeast. Once registered, participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and how to help communities be better prepared for earthquakes and disasters. The website includes many resources for promoting participation in the ShakeOut.

The ShakeOut drill provides an opportunity to practice the safe response to an earthquake:

- **Drop** to the ground, before the shaking drops you
- Take **Cover** under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck
- **Hold On** until the shaking stops

Virginians can learn more about the ShakeOut at www.vaemergency.gov.

In addition to the participating states, coordinating partners for the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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