



NEWS RELEASE

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Save the date for *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*

Registration now open for Oct. 16 earthquake drill

RICHMOND, Va. – Virginians can practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On,**” the safe response to an earthquake, during the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* earthquake drill set for **Thursday, Oct. 16, at 10:16 a.m.**

Registration for the drill is open at www.ReadyVirginia.gov and also at www.shakeout.org/southeast. Those who register will receive information on how to plan their drill. These websites provide many resources for learning how to be prepared for an earthquake.

“ShakeOut is a great opportunity for all Virginians to quickly practice several steps that are potentially life-saving,” said Jeff Stern, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. “Most Virginians remember where they were when the 5.8 magnitude Mineral earthquake struck in August 2011. Participating in the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* is a terrific training exercise for families, schools, businesses, organizations, government agencies, communities and individuals so that we all are more prepared for the next quake.”

During the ShakeOut, people will practice these actions that are recommended when earthquakes occur:

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

Last year, more than one million Virginians took part in the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*, a simultaneous earthquake drill held in the southeastern U.S. to coincide with drills held in other states and several countries, giving the effect of a rolling drill.

Coordinating partners for the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and Federal Emergency Management Agency. ShakeOut originated in California, where statewide earthquake drills have been held annually since 2008, and has grown to be an international program with nearly 25 million people participating in 2013.

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