



NEWS RELEASE

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236 • (804) 897-6510 • www.vaemergency.gov

CONTACT: Dawn Eischen, VDEM
(804) 897-9730 or 674-2400
dawn.eischen@vdem.virginia.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 10, 2014

Brian Blake, Program Coordinator
Central United States Earthquake Consortium
(901) 544-3570, bblake@cusec.org

Sign up now for Oct. 16 *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*

Virginia leads in registrations for multi-state earthquake drill

RICHMOND, Va. – With one month to go until the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* set for Thursday, **Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m.**, Virginia holds a substantial lead in southeastern states that are participating in the simultaneous earthquake drill.

More than 784,000 Virginians have already signed up to practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On,**” the recommended response in the U.S. to an earthquake. The drill is open to everyone. Individuals, families, businesses, organizations, schools and colleges, and government agencies can sign up at www.shakeout.org/southeast or through www.ReadyVirginia.gov. Those who register will receive information on how to plan an earthquake drill and how to help communities be better prepared for earthquakes and disasters.

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** to the table or desk until the shaking stops

More than 1.1 million people have signed up so far for the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* to be held in these states: Delaware, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Coordinating partners for the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 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.

-end-