



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 18, 2012

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Sign up now for Oct. 18 *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*

Virginia leads in registrations for multi-state earthquake drill

RICHMOND, Va. – With one month to go until the first *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* set for Thursday, **Oct. 18 at 10:18 a.m.**, Virginia leads the way in registrations for the multi-state simultaneous earthquake drill.

Nearly 390,000 Virginians have signed up to practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On,**” the recommended response to an earthquake. Virginia has joined Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland and the District of Columbia to help people understand the safe response to an earthquake and to promote participation in the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*. To date, total registration stands at 560,000.

The drill is open to everyone – individuals, families, businesses, organizations, schools and colleges, 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 engage communities to become better prepared for earthquakes and disasters.

The ShakeOut earthquake drill, modeled after similar efforts held throughout the nation, provides an opportunity to learn and practice the appropriate, safe response to an earthquake:

- **Drop** to the ground
- 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. Click on the ShakeOut graphic. Also, the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* website provides many resources for planning a drill and learning how to get better prepared for recovery from an earthquake. To find these resources, go to www.shakeout.org/southeast/resources

Coordinating partners for the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and Federal Emergency Management Agency. Since 2011, CUSEC has coordinated ShakeOut activities in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

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