



# South Carolina Emergency Management Division

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## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

### **Join Over 600,000 Participants in the Great Southeast Shakeout**

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (Wednesday, September 19, 2012)** - The South Carolina Emergency Management Division encourages everyone in the Palmetto State to register now for the Great Southeast ShakeOut earthquake drill on October 18, 2012. South Carolina, along with four southeast states and Washington, D.C., will take part in one of the largest earthquake drills in the United States. So far, over 600,000 participants have registered, with over 71,981 in South Carolina.

**The Great Southeast ShakeOut will take place on October 18, 2012 at 10:18 a.m. as part of South Carolina Earthquake Awareness Week.** Similar to other emergency preparedness drills sponsored by SCEMD, the signal to begin the drill will be broadcast at 10:18 a.m. on NOAA tone-alert weather radio and broadcast media. Once the signal is broadcast, all participants should Drop, Cover, and Hold On as if there were a major earthquake occurring and stay in the position for at least 60 seconds. Earthquakes occur with no warning, leaving only seconds to seek protection.

**Registration on the Southeast ShakeOut site is an important part of this event.** Go to [shakeout.org/southeast](http://shakeout.org/southeast) to register. Be sure to include the total number of people taking part in the drill with you. The Great Southeast ShakeOut drill is open to everyone in South Carolina. Private citizens, government agencies, schools, businesses, universities and many other groups in our state have already registered on the main ShakeOut site. Resources to help you with earthquake planning are available for download on the ShakeOut site and [scemd.org](http://scemd.org)

South Carolina is participating in the Great Southeast ShakeOut along with North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.; highlighting the need for everyone in this region to be prepared for the large-scale disasters. The largest earthquake recorded on the eastern seaboard occurred in 1886 with a magnitude of 7.3 on the [Mercalli Scale](#). Its epicenter was in Summerville, S.C. and was felt from Chicago to Cuba. Currently, South Carolina experiences 10 to 20 measurable earthquakes a year according to geologists with the College of Charleston.

#### **South Carolina Earthquake Resources:**

- [The South Carolina Earthquake Guide](#)
- SCEMD's homepage: [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)
- [SCEMD's Facebook page](#)
- [SCEMD on Twitter- @SCEMD](#)
- [Preparedness PSAs on SCEMD's YouTube Channel](#)
- [Southeast ShakeOut Resources page](#)
- [ShakeOut Frequently Asked Questions page](#)

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