

# Annual “Great ShakeOut” Earthquake Drill Set for October 15

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**PHILADELPHIA** – The annual [Great ShakeOut earthquake drill](#) will take place Oct. 15 across the United States and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 3 office wants to encourage the [Whole Community](#) to participate and learn the simple but critical safety steps to preparing for and staying safe during an earthquake. The Great ShakeOut is the largest earthquake drill worldwide and over 11 million people are already registered to practice their earthquake safety plans.

[ShakeOut: Join Us \(Facebook\)](#)

We encourage everyone to Drop, Cover, and Hold On with us at 10:15 AM Eastern on Oct. 15.

Earthquakes are normally thought of as a west coast hazard, but they can happen anywhere, such as the 2011 earthquake in Virginia. Worldwide there is an average of one damaging earthquake almost every third day.

“Damaging earthquakes can occur at any time – where we work, live or travel,” stated FEMA Region 3 Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney. “To be best prepared to respond quickly, we must practice earthquake safety on a regular basis. The Great ShakeOut provides an excellent opportunity to practice our earthquake preparedness skills together.”

While COVID-19 will make this year’s ShakeOut look different, we still encourage you to participate at home or socially distanced.

To help people to prepare and participate, FEMA Region 3 produced a [white board video](#) highlighting the steps to practice for the Great ShakeOut. The Great ShakeOut also produces [additional videos](#) that address how to protect yourself



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from earthquakes in a number of scenarios – whether an earthquake strikes while you are in your home, car, bed or elsewhere.

The Great ShakeOut is set for Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 at 10:15 AM Eastern. During the self-led drill, participants practice how to “**Drop, Cover and Hold On.**” For most

people, in most situations, the recommended earthquake safety action is to:

- **DROP** where you are, onto your hands and knees;
- **COVER** your head and neck with one arm and hand, as you crawl for shelter under a nearby table or desk;
- **HOLD ON** to your shelter with one hand until shaking stops (remain on your knees and covering your head and neck with your other arm and hand).

The Great ShakeOut is free and open to the public. Participants include individuals, schools, businesses, local and state government agencies, and many other groups. To take part in the ShakeOut, register to participate at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org). Once registered, you’ll receive regular information on how to plan your drill and become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters.

Hundreds of thousands of people will participate in this event in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, joining Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills occurring throughout the nation and in several countries. More than 11 million people around the globe are expected to participate. In addition to safety drills, many participants take extra steps to become more prepared for earthquakes or other disasters.

The Great ShakeOut is nationally sponsored by the United States Geological Survey, FEMA, and the National Science Foundation and is supported by dozens of other partners. The Great ShakeOut is coordinated globally by the Southern California Earthquake Center.

For more information, please visit [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org). For additional earthquake information, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>.

