

FEMA Encourages Participation in Oct. 19 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

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WASHINGTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages all Americans to participate in this year's [Great ShakeOut](#) earthquake drills, which will take place on Thursday, Oct. 19, at 10:19 a.m. local time. The drill is designed to promote awareness and increase earthquake preparedness nationwide.

The Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills are regionally organized campaigns linked together as a worldwide preparedness movement spanning more than 70 countries, focusing on earthquake safety activities that remind participants to “[Drop, Cover, and Hold On](#)” as the recommended safety action immediately when an earthquake occurs.

“Practicing what to do during an earthquake could save your life,” FEMA Administrator Brock Long noted. “Building a true culture of preparedness requires an understanding of the hazards each community may face, and the proper actions to take. Preparing now and knowing what actions you can take is the first step in protecting yourself and loved ones in case of emergency.”

For this year's Great ShakeOut it is expected that more than 18.5 million people in the United States and its territories will participate in the October 19 drill, with another nearly 15 million participating worldwide. [Registration](#) is ongoing and these numbers will increase; check www.ShakeOut.org for current totals.

FEMA recommends that everyone learn how to protect themselves during earthquakes. To register involvement and participate for free visit www.shakeout.org.

FEMA supports the Great ShakeOut as part of [Prepawareathon](#), a community-based campaign that asks everyone to take an action—such as participating in a disaster drill or group discussion—to increase their preparedness. Additional information on disaster preparedness is available at www.ready.gov.

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