

Los Alamitos Unified School District



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Andrew Pulver, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Jerry Friedman, Ed.D.
Director, Safety & Student Services

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Dear Los Alamitos Unified Families,

The Los Alamitos Unified School District will be participating in the **Great California ShakeOut** on Thursday, October 15th at approximately 10:15 a.m. The District's participation in this state-wide drill is an effort to heighten student and family awareness in the area of emergency preparedness with regard to earthquakes. Prior to the exercise, our teachers will engage students in age-appropriate discussions pertaining to recommended responses once an earthquake occurs and safety measures and procedures to follow once the earthquake has stopped. During the exercise, students will DROP, COVER and HOLD-ON. In accordance with the California Department of Public Health Guidelines to "Minimize movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable," there will not be a full evacuation to the student assembly areas. Instead, teachers will discuss with students the locations they would assemble (once the shaking stops) in the event of a real earthquake.

In conjunction with preparing students at school in the event of an earthquake, Los Alamitos Unified School District recommends having these same discussions and exercises at home. We have provided some questions below, that when addressed, will help minimize the potential negative effects of an earthquake. We also encourage you to develop an evacuation plan and practice that plan as often as possible.

- ✓ What locations within your home would be the best places to DROP, COVER and HOLD ON? What places may be most hazardous due to falling debris or broken glass?
- ✓ Do you have an Earthquake Kit at home and/or in your car?
- ✓ How much drinkable water, food, and warm clothing do you keep on hand to sustain your family? (FEMA recommends a 72-hour supply for each family member)
- ✓ Does anyone in your family require necessary medications? If so, do you have those medications in an accessible place in the event of an evacuation?
- ✓ Do you know where the gas, electricity and water shut-offs are located in your home? If so, do you know how to shut-off the gas, electricity and water?
- ✓ Do you have working flashlights and hard shoes in your bedroom in the event an earthquake was to occur?
- ✓ If, during an evacuation, you are separated from your family, do you have a set meeting place?
- ✓ In the event of a major earthquake, have you considered "buddying up" with a neighbor for immediate relief and/or assistance?

Thank you for partnering with Los Alamitos Unified School District in the area of emergency preparedness.

For more detail on preparing for earthquakes please visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/earthquake-safety-home>
<https://www.fema.gov/earthquake-publications-individuals-and-families>

Thank you,

Jerry Friedman, Ed.D.
Director of Safety and Student Services