



Partners in Prevention

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Nearly 68 Million Participate in *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill*

More than 67.9 million people participated in the *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill* on October 17. The drill, held on *International ShakeOut Day*, encourages individuals and communities worldwide to practice how to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.”

ShakeOut participants included schools, businesses, government agencies, community organizations, households, and many other groups. In addition to the United States, participants came from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and many other countries across the world.

According to Mark Benthien, Outreach Director for the Southern California Earthquake Center, "Damaging earthquakes can occur at any time where we work, live, or travel, so everyone everywhere should know how to protect themselves from an earthquake."

Endorsed by emergency officials and first responders, the safe response to an earthquake is to:

DROP where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby.

COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter
- If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows)
- Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs

HOLD ON until shaking stops

- Under shelter: hold on to it with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts
- No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands.

ShakeOut began in California and has also been organized in many other states and countries. Official *ShakeOut* Regions require significant local or regional coordination, typically by an emergency management agency or an alliance of many organizations. If you are interested in establishing *ShakeOut* for your region [click here](#). If your state,

province, or country is not yet participating you can [register](#) yourself or your organization as part of the global participation total.