

News Release



CONTACT: Michael A. Ramirez, Emergency Services Officer
(909) 356-3987, 800-426-8689 pager #2115

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Michael Antonucci, Emergency Services Manager
San Bernardino County Fire Department
Office of Emergency Services

“Secure Your Space” to Get Ready for the “Great California ShakeOut” World’s largest earthquake drill planned for October 17

Earthquake shaking can move almost anything, even large or heavy items. Imagine your home or workplace being picked up and shaken sideways – what would fall or be thrown around? How can you prevent it?

Start by learning how to “[Secure Your Space](#),” Step One of the “[Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety](#)” developed by the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) to help people prepare to survive and recover after the next damaging earthquake. A great way to put these steps into practice is to register for the Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill at www.shakeout.org/california and get prepared with millions of others worldwide.

Most injuries in earthquakes are caused by falling or flying objects, and can be prevented or reduced by identifying these hazards in advance and securing moveable items. The following list includes free or low cost actions that people can do in one weekend, or perhaps one each week until done.

No cost suggestions:

- Move heavy or large items to the floor or low shelves.
- Move things that can fall on you away from where you spend a lot of time.
- Move heavy or unstable objects away from doors and escape routes.

Low cost suggestions:

- Secure a water heater to wall studs with two metal straps.
- Secure top-heavy furniture and appliances to wall studs.
- Hang mirrors and pictures on closed hooks.
- Secure computers and TVs with special straps.
- Prevent small items from falling by using museum putty or wax.
- Install latches on kitchen cabinets.

Most items listed above are available at local hardware stores.

These recommendations may also reduce injury or damage in other situations. For example, a recent [report](#) showed that unsecured TVs fall and injure children nationwide every day! So even if earthquakes don’t strike every day, these suggestions are worthwhile to consider.

“ShakeOut earthquake drills are an opportunity to practice how to be safer during earthquakes.” stated San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services Manager Michael Antonucci. “It is proven that the more you practice during a non-emergency, the more likely you will be to perform the correct action in a real emergency. ShakeOut drills allow families, employers, schools and individuals to practice for the earthquake that will occur.”

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ShakeOut began as a Southern California drill in 2008 and has since grown to include drills in more than 40 states and U.S. Territories, along with participation in Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, and many other countries. More than 20 million participants are expected to participate in 2013 (including 10 million in California) as part of the various ShakeOut drills worldwide.

The Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill is coordinated by the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) with a broad network of local ShakeOut coordinators, with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Science Foundation, and U.S. Geological Survey. The Great California ShakeOut is organized by the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA), which includes California Office of Emergency Services, U.S. Geological Survey, California Earthquake Authority, American Red Cross, San Bernardino County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services and many other organizations.

For more information on the ShakeOut in San Bernardino County, visit:

<http://www.sbcfire.org/oes/shakeout.aspx>

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