



NEWS RELEASE

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236 • (804) 897-6510 • www.vaemergency.gov

CONTACT: Bob Spieldenner, VDEM
(804) 897-6510 or 674-2400
bob.spieldenner@vdem.virginia.gov

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Brian Blake, Program Coordinator, Central United States Earthquake Consortium
(901) 544-3570
bblake@cusec.org

Registration opens for *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* earthquake drill

Individuals and groups can sign up for second annual drill, set for Oct. 17

RICHMOND, Va. – Virginians can practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On,**” the safe response to an earthquake, during the second annual *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* earthquake drill set for **Thursday, Oct. 17, at 10:17 a.m.**

“We encourage Virginia families, schools, businesses, organizations, government agencies, communities and individuals to take this opportunity to quickly practice several steps that are potentially life-saving should we have another strong earthquake,” said Michael Cline, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

The Oct. 17 earthquake drill for southeastern states follows the two-year anniversary of the Aug. 23, 2011, 5.8 magnitude earthquake centered in Mineral. The ShakeOut provides an opportunity to practice simple recommended actions should an earthquake occur:

- **Drop** to the ground where you are
- Take **Cover** under a sturdy table or desk if possible, protecting your head and neck
- **Hold On** until the shaking stops

To register for the earthquake drill, go to www.shakeout.org/southeast. Those who register will receive information on how to plan their drill. The *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* website provides many resources for learning how to be prepared for an earthquake and also for promoting the ShakeOut. To find these resources, go to www.shakeout.org/southeast/resources

Last year, nearly one million Virginians took part in the first *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*, a simultaneous earthquake drill held in the southeastern U.S. to coincide with drills held in other states and several countries, giving the effect of a rolling drill.

Coordinating partners for the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and Federal Emergency Management Agency. ShakeOut originated in California, where statewide earthquake drills have been held annually since 2008, and has grown to be an international program.

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