



Virginia Department of Emergency Management

News Release

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More than one million Virginians now signed up for ShakeOut *Commonwealth second only to California in registrations for rolling earthquake drill*

RICHMOND, Va. – With a week to go until the Great SouthEast ShakeOut set for Thursday, Oct. 17 at 10:17 a.m., Virginia has become only the second state ever to pass the one million mark in people registered to participate in the multistate earthquake drill. California, where the original ShakeOut premiered in 2008, leads all states in registrations.

“Our own major earthquake in August 2011 reminded us that Virginia is vulnerable,” said Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management. “It’s not too late to sign up so you can learn what to do when an earthquake hits, which is to ‘Drop, Cover, and Hold On.’”

The drill is open to all. Individuals, families, businesses, government agencies, organizations, and schools and colleges can sign up at www.shakeout.org/southeast. Once registered, participants will receive information on how to plan their drill.

The ShakeOut, a rolling multistate drill that will happen 10/17 at 10:17 a.m. regardless of time zone, provides an opportunity to practice the safe response to an earthquake:

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

Virginians can learn more about the ShakeOut at www.vaemergency.gov.

As of Oct. 9, more than 1,051,000 Virginians have signed up to practice “**Drop, Cover, and Hold On.**” More than 1.6 million have signed up so far from the southeastern states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

In addition to the participating states, coordinating partners for the Great SouthEast ShakeOut include the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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