



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION
MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: October 18, 2012
To: Human Relations Commission
From: James R. Latta, L.C.S.W., Human Services Administrator *JRL*
Subject: The Great California Shakeout
Attachment I : Shakeout: Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions
Attachment II: Useful Earthquake and Tsunami Websites and Experts

According to the Great California Shakeout website (www.shakeout.org) seismologist experts state there is a 97% chance of a magnitude 6.7 or above earthquake occurring in the next 30 years. In an effort to be prepared for the "Big One", on October 18 at 10:20 am, the City of Beverly Hills and the community will participate in the Great California Shakeout.

During the October meeting, at 10:20 am, the commissioners and staff will stop what they're doing to "Drop, Cover and Hold". This method is specifically designed to reduce your chance of injury during earthquakes. You are much more likely to be injured during an earthquake by attempting to run out of a building or by falling objects (TV, bookcases, glass, etc.) than to die in a collapsed building.

- DROP to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!)
- Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- HOLD ON to it until after the shaking stops.

For additional information on earthquake and preparedness training, see attachment I.

Federal, State, and local emergency management experts and other official preparedness organizations all agree that "**Drop, Cover, and Hold On**" is the appropriate action to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. Great ShakeOut earthquake drills (www.shakeout.org) are opportunities to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes.

You cannot tell from the initial shaking if an earthquake will suddenly become intense...so always Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately!

- **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!),
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to your shelter and be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.



If there is no table or desk near you, drop to the ground and then if possible move to an inside corner of the room. Be in a crawling position to protect your vital organs and be ready to move if necessary, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.

Do not move to another location or outside. Earthquakes occur without any warning and may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. You are more likely to be injured if you try to move around during strong shaking. Also, you will never know if the initial jolt will turn out to be start of the big one...and that's why you should always Drop, Cover, and Hold On immediately!

These are guidelines for most situations. Read below to learn how to protect yourself in other situations and locations, or visit www.dropcoverholdon.org.



If you are unable to Drop, Cover, and Hold On: If you have difficulty getting safely to the floor on your own, get as low as possible, protect our head and neck, and move away from windows or other items that can fall on you.

In a wheelchair: Lock your wheels and remain seated until the shaking stops. Always protect your head and neck with your arms, a pillow, a book, or whatever is available.



Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions

In bed: If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor has caused injury to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to doorways.

In a high-rise: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Avoid windows and other hazards. Do not use elevators. Do not be surprised if sprinkler systems or fire alarms activate.

In a store: When Shaking starts, Drop Cover and Hold On. A shopping cart or getting inside clothing racks can provide some protection. If you must move to get away from heavy items on high shelves, drop to the ground first and crawl only the shortest distance necessary. Whenever you enter any retail store, take a moment to look around: What is above and around you that could move or fall during an earthquake? Then use your best judgment to stay safe.

Outdoors: Move to a clear area if you can safely do so; avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards.

Driving: Pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

In a stadium or theater: Stay at your seat or drop to the floor between rows and protect your head and neck with your arms. Don't try to leave until the shaking is over. Then walk out slowly watching for anything that could fall in the aftershocks.

Near the shore: Drop, Cover, and Hold On until the shaking stops. If severe shaking lasts twenty seconds or more, immediately evacuate to high ground as a Tsunami might have been generated by the earthquake. Move inland two miles or to land that is at least 100 feet above sea level immediately. Don't wait for officials to issue a warning. Walk quickly, rather than drive, to avoid traffic, debris and other hazards.

Below a dam: Dams can fail during a major earthquake. Catastrophic failure is unlikely, but if you live downstream from a dam, you should know flood-zone information and have prepared an evacuation plan.

More information:

www.shakeout.org/dropcoverholdon

www.dropcoverholdon.org

www.earthquakecountry.org/dropcoverholdon

MYTH – Head for the Doorway:

An enduring earthquake image of California is a collapsed adobe home with the doorframe as the only standing part. From this came our belief that a doorway is the safest place to be during an earthquake. True – if you live in an old, unreinforced adobe house. In modern houses, doorways are no stronger than any other part of the house. You are safer under a table.

Media Advisory

Contact: D'Anne Ousley
California Earthquake Authority
ECA Media Specialist
916-325-3845, ousleyd@calquake.com



Earthquake Country Alliance
We're all in this together.

Useful Earthquake and Tsunami Websites and Experts

Got earthquake questions?

Let us help. In the wake of recent earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand, the Earthquake Country Alliance and its partners have teamed up to provide relevant data and earthquake and preparedness experts readily available for interviews

Websites that may help you provide answers:

- www.calema.ca.gov/preparedness: Earthquake, tsunami and general preparedness
- www.tsunami.ca.gov: Tsunami inundation map links; preparedness information
- myhazards.calema.ca.gov: Interactive map of natural hazards in your neighborhood
- www.cisn.org: Recent earthquake information and maps
- www.scec.org/ucrf: Probabilities of earthquakes in California
- www.earthquakeauthority.com: CEA Earthquake insurance information
- www.earthquakecountry.org: Extensive information, videos, publications, and links
- www.terremotos.org: Earthquake information in Spanish
- www.earthquakecountry.org/dropcoverholdon: Special report on what to do during earthquakes
- www.dropcoverandholdon.org: Drop, Cover and Hold On website (and "Beat the Quake" game)
- www.shakeout.org: How to participate in California's annual statewide earthquake drill, with extensive drill planning and preparedness resources.



Experts available throughout the state for news media interviews about what to do before, during and after earthquakes and tsunamis:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Expertise</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Mark Benthien	Exec. Dir., Earthquake Country Alliance (at SCEC) <i>Drop, Cover, and Hold On / ShakeOut / EQ Science</i>	213-926-1683
Stacy Gerlich	CERT Commander, Los Angeles Fire Dept. <i>Drop, Cover, and Hold On / Community Preparedness</i>	818-756-9674
Dr. Kim Shoaf	Assoc. Dir., UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters <i>Studies how people are injured during earthquakes</i>	310-794-0864
Harold Schapelhouman	Menlo Park Fire Chief & FEMA Urban Search and Rescue <i>Search and Rescue / Drop, Cover, and Hold On</i>	650-688-8426
Dr. Lori Dengler	Professor, Humboldt State & CalEMA Tsunami Advisor <i>Tsunamis / EQ Science / Drop, Cover, and Hold On</i>	707-826-3115
Dr. Paul Myers	Preparedness, American Red Cross National Headquarters <i>Drop, Cover, Hold On / Community Preparedness</i>	202-642-6421
Glenn Pomeroy	CEO, California Earthquake Authority <i>Information about CEA earthquake insurance policies</i>	916-325-3845



The 2011 Great California ShakeOut on October 20th is a great way to help your community become prepared and to practice what to do to protect themselves during earthquakes. Over 4.2 million people are already registered to participate at www.shakeout.org!