



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

KENNETH M. YOUNG
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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3939 Thirteenth Street
P.O. Box 868
Riverside, California
92502-0868

47-336 Oasis Street
Indio, California
92201-6998

24980 Las Brisas Road
Murrieta, California
92562

TO: Riverside County District Superintendents
Instructional Leaders Network
K-12 School Principals
RCOE Staff

FROM: Kenneth M. Young
Riverside County
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **Great California ShakeOut**

The Riverside County Office of Education is announcing its participation in **"The Great California ShakeOut."** The **California Great ShakeOut** is to encourage all Californians to be ready and prepare for earthquakes. What we do now, before a big earthquake, will determine what our lives will be like afterwards. RCOE encourages all schools, private and public, to participate in the largest earthquake preparedness event in U.S. history.

Last year, more than 6.9 million Californians, statewide, practiced "Drop, Cover and Hold On," with 100% participation from the Riverside County School districts. We again encourage all schools, private and public to build on the success of the previous years and encourage local businesses and organizations to participate in 2010.

On Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 10:21 a.m., millions of people, including students, will again practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Since schools are required to conduct earthquake drills every year, districts are highly encouraged to participate in the ShakeOut.

This year's theme is **"Secure Your Space."** Through the ShakeOut Partners in the Earthquake Alliance, you'll be provided with information on "How-To" properly secure items in and around your school, home or place of business, to reduce any potential damage or injuries during an earthquake.

RCOE encourages districts and schools to develop and promote their own ShakeOut activities and events, such as; providing emergency preparedness information to parents, posting links on their websites, and presenting classroom lessons. You can find these resources on *The Great California ShakeOut, How Schools Can Participate* Webpage at <http://www.shakeout.org/schools/>

To participate, please go to www.shakeout.org/schools/register and pledge your participation. Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and how to encourage a dialogue with others about disaster preparedness.

For more information about ShakeOut, please contact the Riverside County ShakeOut School Associate Member Michael D'Amico, Emergency Management Coordinator, Safe Schools Unit, at (951) 826-6250 or by e-mail at mdamico@rcoe.us or emergencyprep@rcoe.us

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