

### 1) What are Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills?

- *Everyone, everywhere, should know how to protect themselves during earthquakes.*
- ShakeOut began in Southern California in 2008 with 5.4 million participants.
- On October 15 at 10:15 a.m., more than 21 million people worldwide will practice “Drop, Cover and Hold On” and other aspects of their emergency plans
- Throughout 2015 more than 41 million people worldwide will participate in 51 states and U.S. territories as well as Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and more than 60 other countries.
- Participants include people in schools, businesses, non-profits, government agencies, neighborhoods, organizations, and households.
- Participation is free and may take only a few minutes, depending on your drill plans.
- The primary purpose of ShakeOut is to encourage people and organizations to be prepared to survive and to recover quickly when the next big earthquake happens.
- Learn more and register to participate at [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org).

### 2) How do we prepare, survive, and recover?

- Everyone should know what steps to take before, during and after an earthquake at home, work, and school.
- Visit [www.EarthquakeCountry.org](http://www.EarthquakeCountry.org) to learn the *Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety*.

#### **PREPARE (before an earthquake):**

- (Step 1) Secure your space, by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.
- (Step 2) Plan to be safe, by creating a disaster plan and deciding how you will communicate in an emergency.
- (Step 3) Organize disaster supplies in convenient locations.
- (Step 4) Minimize financial hardship, by organizing important documents, strengthening your property, and considering insurance.

## **SURVIVE (during and just after an earthquake):**

- (Step 5) Drop, Cover, and Hold On during earthquake shaking.
  - DROP onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down!);
  - COVER your head and neck with hands and arm, and (if nearby) crawl to shelter under a sturdy table or desk.
  - HOLD ON to your shelter and be ready to move with it until the shaking stops.
  - If there is no table or desk near you, drop to the ground and crawl next to an inside wall of the room. Remain in a crawling position to protect your vital organs and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.
  - Do not move to another room or outside during strong shaking.
  - Visit [www.EarthquakeCountry.org/step5](http://www.EarthquakeCountry.org/step5) to learn how to protect yourself in various situations and locations, including safety tips for people with disabilities.
- (Step 6) When shaking stops, improve safety by evacuating if necessary, helping the injured, and preventing further injuries or damage.

## **RECOVER (after an earthquake):**

- (Step 7) Reconnect and Restore. Restore daily life by reconnecting with others, repairing damage, and rebuilding community.
  - To keep phone lines accessible for emergency use communicate via text message rather than calling.
  - If you have an earthquake insurance policy and have suffered any property damage, contact your insurance agent or company for assistance.

## **3) Who organizes Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills?**

- Global:
  - Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills are coordinated by the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), headquartered at the University of Southern California Center, in league with various federal, state, and local governments, and sponsors, including the National Science Foundation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Geological Survey.
- Regional:
  - Organizers, sponsors, and partners vary at the regional level and work with the global coordinators at the Southern California Earthquake Center. See each region's "Partners and Sponsors" page for more information.