



September 10, 2008

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TO: District Superintendents

FROM: William M. Habermehl 

SUBJECT: *The Great Southern California ShakeOut*
November 13, 2008

Orange County recently experienced a 5.4 magnitude earthquake, an important reminder that earthquakes can and do happen. Large earthquakes are a serious concern for us all and likely to become an inevitable part of our future. I am requesting each of you to join me to help ensure that we are prepared for earthquakes and the after effects.

On November 13, 2008 at 10:00 AM, thousands of Southern Californians will "drop and take cover" while participating in *The Great Southern California ShakeOut*, the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history! All businesses, schools, and residents are being encouraged to participate. Scientists and seismic experts agree that we are long overdue for an earthquake, and this exercise can help us to be better prepared.

The Orange County Department of Education, the Earthquake Country Alliance, emergency managers, and public safety personnel are working closely together to promote this event. To participate, districts are encouraged to register on the ShakeOut website at www.shakeout.org/schools/. Registered participants will receive important information about how to plan their drills and will gain access to a variety of disaster preparedness materials for students, staff and parents. The ShakeOut website is also a valuable resource for teachers and includes classroom earthquake curriculum which meets the requirements of state science standards.

I hope you will take the opportunity to participate. If you need more information about the ShakeOut, please contact Sara Kaminske from our office at (714) 966-4032.

WMH:ja