

RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

KENNETH M. YOUNG  
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools


## Office of the Superintendent

September 3, 2008

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TO: District Superintendents  
Instructional Leaders Network  
All School Principals  
RCOE Coordinator/Principals

47-336 Oasis Street  
Indio, California  
92201-6998

FROM: Kenneth M. Young   
Riverside County  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: ***Great Southern California ShakeOut Drill***

24980 Las Brisas Road  
Murrieta, California  
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With the recent 5.4 earthquake that we experienced on July 29, 2008, that originated in the Inland Empire, in Chino Hills, is a friendly reminder that we do live in "Earthquake County" and it is only a matter of time that we need to be ready for the "Big One."

The Riverside County Office of Education has partnered with the Earthquake Country Alliance, a joint venture of earthquake professionals, emergency responders, business leaders, and community activists to promote the largest earthquake drill in United States history! The *Great Southern California ShakeOut Drill*, is one of many drills that will be occurring in California during the Golden Guardian Emergency Response 2008 Exercise.

The Golden Guardian Emergency Response Statewide Exercise Series is the nation's largest state-sponsored emergency preparedness exercise endeavor. Golden Guardian is an ongoing annual event, comprised of a series of seminars, discussion-based tabletop exercises and drills, culminating in a full-scale exercise designed to test the emergency capabilities of the state of California to deter, prevent, respond, and recover from a potential terrorist attack or catastrophic natural disaster.

Begun in 2004 as a federal/state and local exercise which activated state emergency resources, the Golden Guardian Exercise Series is mandated and funded under federal Department of Homeland Security guidelines requiring exercise and subsequent evaluation and improvement activities. Governor Schwarzenegger and his senior staff have participated in each Golden Guardian exercise.

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This year's Golden Guardian is focused on a simulated catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the southern portion of the San Andreas Fault, ranging from the Salton Sea in Imperial County to Northern Los Angeles County. Seven southern California counties are participating in this main event, as well as the State Operations Center in Sacramento. A catastrophic natural disaster exercise involving the multi-state Lake Tahoe region is also planned. Thousands of participants representing dozens of local, state, and federal agencies including the U.S. Military are planned to participate.

To participate, go to [www.ShakeOut.org/register](http://www.ShakeOut.org/register) and pledge your district's or school's participation in the drill. Registered participants will receive information on how to plan their drill and encourage a dialogue with others about disaster preparedness.

RCOE also urges 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 website, and presenting classroom lessons. All of this resource information can be found on the website.

At 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 13, 2008 – millions of people, including students, will practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” and learn how to prepare for emergencies. Since schools are required to conduct earthquake drills every year, districts are highly encourage to participate in the *Great Southern California ShakeOut*.

Unless we take action today, there will be major losses of life and property. The *Great Southern California ShakeOut* has been organized to help raise awareness as well as help Southern Californians prepare for the big earthquakes in our future.

For more information about ShakeOut, go to [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org) and/or contact Safe Schools Unit, Emergency Management Coordinator, Michael D'Amico at (951) 826-6250 or [mdamico@rcoe.us](mailto:mdamico@rcoe.us).