

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor



Chris T. Geldart  
Director

For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, October 12, 2012

## Media Advisory

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### District of Columbia will Join Millions in Historic Great SouthEast ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

*Citywide Earthquake Drill Planned to help Prepare the District for Future Earthquakes*

(Washington, DC) – Are you prepared for the next earthquake? On October 18, 2012 at 10:18 a.m. EDT, more than 17 million people across five states and the District of Columbia are expected to take part in the **first ever Great SouthEast ShakeOut**. The ShakeOut is a regional earthquake drill in which participants simultaneously practice the recommended action during an earthquake. This action is known as “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”, which means to:

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops

In the District of Columbia more than 190,000 people and organizations, including schools, businesses and other private entities have pledged to participate in this historic drill. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, experts from the United States Geological Survey, as well as representatives from FEMS, DC Homeland Security and others will join the students and faculty at **Dorothy I. Height Community Academy Public Charter School – Odessa and Wilson Butler Campus (Butler School)** as they participate in the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill on October 18, 2012.

During the drill, participants will "drop, cover, and hold on" to practice how to protect themselves during an earthquake. Last year's earthquake was a recent reminder that we all need to be prepared, so this will be the first year a drill is held in the southeast.

**What:** Media are invited to join students at Butler Bilingual Community Charter School as they participate in the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill. Following the drill, Secretary Napolitano will participate in a question and answer session with students.

**When:** Thursday, October 18, 2012, 10:18 a.m.  
Media should arrive by 9:30 a.m. The event will end at 10:45 a.m.

**Where:** Dorothy I. Height Community Academy Public Charter School – Odessa and Wilson Butler Campus  
5 Thomas Circle, NW (Highland Terrace entrance)  
Washington, DC 20005  
**OPEN PRESS\***

**Who:** Janet Napolitano, Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Chris Geldart, District of Columbia Homeland Security and EMA (HSEMA)  
David Applegate, United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
Sgt. Chris Holmes, District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Services (FEMS)  
William N. Thomas, Principal, Butler School

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