



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 20, 2016

Great ShakeOut

Over the past 45 years, one dozen earthquakes in California, including the 2014 South Napa Earthquake, have caused enough damage to warrant major disaster declarations from the President of the United States. Two of those earthquakes, the magnitude-6.9 Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989 and the magnitude-6.7 Northridge Earthquake in 1994, combined to cause more than 100 deaths, more than 12,000 injuries and more than \$45 billion in property and economic losses.

Scientific researchers estimate that between now and 2044, the probability of a magnitude 6.7 earthquake occurring in California is more than 99 percent and the likelihood of a magnitude 7.0 or larger earthquake occurring in California is 93 percent. Although earthquakes of that magnitude can cause significant loss of life and property, businesses and communities can take steps to reduce those numbers.

The 2016/17 State Budget included funds to support the implementation of California's Earthquake Early Warning System for a comprehensive and reliable statewide warning system. As we look forward to the possibility of receiving early warning of impending earthquakes, we need to understand and practice what we can do to keep safe in the few seconds before an earthquake arrives. When shaking is expected, everyone should "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," "Lock, Cover, and Hold On" if using a mobility device, or move away from overhead and external building hazards if outside.

Every year as part of the effort to prepare for earthquakes, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Geological Survey, in partnership with the Earthquake Country Alliance, conduct the "Great ShakeOut" to remind Californians that they can increase their chances of surviving an earthquake if they "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" or "Lock, Cover, and Hold On" when they feel the ground shake.

Today, I urge all Californians to be aware of the earthquake risk California faces and pledge to join millions of others in this year's "Great ShakeOut." I also urge all Californians to continue their overall preparedness efforts and be disaster ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" and last name "Brown" clearly distinguishable.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.