



September 1, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

The threat of a major earthquake is a familiar occurrence for Californians. However, this familiarity should not cause us to become complacent in our personal earthquake preparedness practices. Earthquake hazards exist throughout our state, from the southern San Andreas Fault to the northern Cascadia Subduction Zone.

For this reason I challenge all Californians and those who visit our Golden State to take charge of their own personal preparedness and the earthquake readiness of their families and communities by participating in the Great ShakeOut on October 19, 2017 at 10:19 a.m.

As you participate in this year's "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill, pay particular attention to your surroundings. Consider what might fall, break, or block your exit from the building. Individuals with access and functional needs may need to "Lock, Cover, and Hold" or use alternative measures of protection.

You don't need to wait for October 19 to begin preparing for an earthquake. Various protective measures can be found on the ShakeOut website at www.shakeout.org. The Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety list is available through the Earthquake Country Alliance at www.earthquakecountry.org/sevensteps/ and you can find the hazard zones where you live, work and travel with a simple address entry at the Cal OES My Hazards website located at www.myhazards.caloes.ca.gov.

Remember – what we do today to prepare for the next earthquake will enhance our safety and ensure our resiliency following an earthquake. Take the challenge and join me on October 19!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Ghilarducci", written in a cursive style.

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director

