



October 8, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

California is earthquake country. Earthquake hazards exist throughout our state, from the San Andreas Fault to the Cascadia Subduction Zone. We know we have to always be prepared and never let down our guard. I challenge all residents and visitors in our Golden State to take charge of their own personal preparedness to ready themselves and their families by participating in the Great ShakeOut on October 18, 2018 at 10:18 a.m.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of this important event which has withstood the test of time and continues to spread around the globe. Now is a time we can reflect on the proven effectiveness of education and "Drop, Cover, and Hold On," as well as "Lock, Cover, and Hold On" drills for some individuals with access and functional needs. Once again, California has led by example; in a state of nearly 40 million residents, over 10 million participated in ShakeOut in 2016 and 2017.

With Earthquake Early Warning moving closer to implementation, everyone needs to understand and practice what they can do to keep safe before and during an earthquake. For further details on how to perform the Great ShakeOut drill in various settings where you work, live, or visit, go to www.shakeout.org/resources/

The Great ShakeOut is also a reminder to address non-structural hazards. Recent earthquakes in Japan and Indonesia have killed many people, some as a result of falling structures or contents inside buildings. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of earthquake retrofitting and securing of non-structural hazards. Even pre-securing furniture and shelving can save lives.

Preparedness on the part of individuals, businesses, and communities will help ensure the resilience of our great state in the face of disasters and emergencies. Thanks for your efforts to be earthquake prepared.

Sincerely,

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

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director

