



**ORANGE COUNTY
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DATE: September 21, 2009

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Bill Habermehl 

SUBJECT: *The Great Southern California ShakeOut* October 15, 2009

Large earthquakes are a serious concern for us all and likely to become an inevitable part of our future. I am requesting each of you to join me to help ensure that we are prepared for earthquakes and the after effects.

On October 15, 2009 at 10:15 a.m., thousands of Californians will “drop and take cover” while participating in *The Great California ShakeOut*, the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history! All businesses, schools, and residents are being encouraged to participate. Scientists and seismic experts agree that we are long overdue for an earthquake, and this exercise can help us to be better prepared.

The Orange County Department of Education, the Earthquake Country Alliance, emergency managers, and public safety personnel are working closely together to promote this event. To participate, districts are encouraged to register on the ShakeOut website at <http://www.shakeout.org/schools/>. Registered participants will receive important information about how to plan their drills and will gain access to a variety of disaster preparedness materials for students, staff and parents. The ShakeOut website is also a valuable resource for teachers and includes classroom earthquake curriculum which meets the requirements of state science standards.

I hope you will take the opportunity to participate. If you need more information about the ShakeOut, please contact Golnaz Agahi, OCDE Crisis Response Coordinator, at (714) 327-8196 or gaghi@ocde.us.

WMH:ga