

*For Immediate Release*  
*October 16, 2012*

## **San Bernardino County Commuters ShakeOut on the Road**

This Thursday, 10/18 at 10:18 a. m., the Omnitrans bus fleet will slow or stop all over San Bernardino County as a part of the Great California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill. A mock emergency announcement will be made to passengers, and if it is safe, buses will slow and pull over as they would in an actual earthquake. During the simulated magnitude 7.8 earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, Omnitrans coach operators will practice safety procedures that would be followed in the event of a major earthquake.

Omnitrans, the County's largest transit provider, will be conducting other simultaneous company-wide earthquake preparedness activities on October 18<sup>th</sup> including:

- Conducting a DROP, COVER and HOLD ON drill for their employees at all their facilities at 10:18 a.m.
- Displaying an Omnitrans Travel Training bus to instruct children on bus safety during an earthquake as a part of the ShakeOut event at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands.
- Distributing refresher awareness material to Omnitrans Coach Operators on the proper procedures to be taken if an earthquake strikes while they are on the road.

“The important thing is for our riders not to panic, but to remain calm and follow the instructions given by their coach operator and/or transit supervisor on-scene until a higher level of authority arrives,” says Mark Crosby, Security & Loss Prevention

Supervisor. “While the bus is shaking during an earthquake, passengers should stay seated and protect their head and neck.”

This year’s ShakeOut exercise focuses on commuter preparedness by encouraging commuters who drive themselves or use public transportation to take steps today to prepare should a major earthquake occur during their commute.

If an earthquake occurs while you are driving:

- Safely pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake.
- Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards.
- Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over.
- If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

For more information about the Great California ShakeOut and to register your participation, visit [www.ShakeOut.org/california](http://www.ShakeOut.org/california).

The San Bernardino County Fire Department, Office of Emergency Services reminds you to prepare now so you can get back to normal sooner after the next major earthquake.

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