OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 17, 2019

Great ShakeOut

As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake – days after quakes struck Northern California and with residents still feeling the impacts of this summer’s Ridgecrest earthquakes – California must recommit itself to making our communities more resilient and better prepared for future earthquakes and other emergencies.

California is home to several active seismic zones and over the next 30 years, the state has a more than 99 percent chance of experiencing a magnitude 6.7 earthquake. Individuals, businesses and communities can take steps ahead of time to protect life and property when a serious earthquake strikes.

California’s new Earthquake Early Warning System, just launched statewide, uses earthquake science and technology to notify residents in advance of shaking – giving people brief but vital moments of warning to take lifesaving action. My first state budget included $16.3 million in funding to finish the system and launch an education campaign, culminating years of work by experts from the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), U.S. Geological Survey, UC Berkeley, the California Institute of Technology, and other partners.

As part of our earthquake preparedness efforts, Cal OES and the California Geological Survey today join with their partners in the Earthquake Country Alliance to conduct the “Great ShakeOut” with 234,000 State of California employees and others who have pledged to practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” or “Lock, Cover, and Hold On” drills.

Nothing can replace families having a plan for earthquakes and other emergencies. I urge all Californians to learn more about earthquake safety measures they can take at www.ShakeOut.org/California, and to encourage their friends, neighbors and colleagues to download the new earthquake early warning app at www.earthquake.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of the State of California

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