



FEMA

SEP 29 2013

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I share this letter to both endorse and applaud the **Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills of 2013**, and to encourage organizations and individuals across the "Whole Community" of Region IX to participate in the world's largest earthquake drill on October 17th.

FEMA Region IX has been an eager partner in promoting community preparedness and participation in seismic readiness since the initial "ShakeOut" held in California in 2008. ShakeOut has grown exponentially each year and continues to engage millions of citizens and organizations in earthquake preparedness in practical ways now emulated across the nation and beyond.

This year, more than twenty million people across the world have already registered to participate, including approximately nine million registrants from FEMA Region IX. As the most seismically active area in the nation, I urge citizens of Region IX to continue to register for and engage in ShakeOut. Earthquake preparedness is vital to be able to survive and recover from the next big earthquake.

As ShakeOut's influence continues to spread beyond its California birthplace, I would like to encourage other members of the "whole community" and especially the federal family across Region IX, to bring their enthusiasm, leadership, and utilize their skill sets to practice earthquake safety during ShakeOut.

Prepared individuals and communities are the first and most important asset available when it comes to disaster preparedness. Join us to prove that on October 17th!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Ward".

Nancy Ward
Regional Administrator
Region IX