

SUSAN CASTILLO  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Public Service Building, 255 Capitol Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310  
Phone (503) 947-5600 • Fax (503) 378-5156 • [www.ode.state.or.us](http://www.ode.state.or.us)

December 2010

Dear School Administrators:

The Great Oregon ShakeOut, a drop, cover and hold drill, is to be held at 10:15am on January 26, 2011. This event is designed to educate the public on how to protect themselves during a large earthquake, and how to get prepared.

The Great ShakeOut began in California in 2008, as the largest earthquake drill in the U.S. at the time. The primary focus of the project was to provide a sense of urgency about earthquakes, to encourage organizations, schools and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved. This past year, California's drill attracted 7.9 million participants!

It is important that we participate in this quake preparation drill, as Oregon, like neighboring states California and Washington, is vulnerable for earthquakes. The Northwest is one of the most seismically active regions in the world and has a history of strong quakes.

In the school setting, this drill will not only educate students on what to do and how to react in an unexpected quake, but will also encourage thinking around emergency preparedness and risk-reduction measures. Schools should embrace this opportunity to assess their structural and non-structural risks, and follow up with actions such as securing bookcases and loose objects in classrooms and considering seismic upgrades for older, high risk buildings. For more information on seismic safety in Oregon schools please visit our website at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2061>.

Lane County will serve as the location for the pilot event on January 26, as it has both rural and urban communities that run from the coast to the mountains. It is my hope that by 2012, this campaign will be a statewide effort.

I offer my support for this project, as it aims to prepare participants with important skills and knowledge for earthquake safety. If you have any questions regarding the Great Oregon ShakeOut, please contact Althea Rizzo, Ph. D., Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator at (503) 378-2911 x 22237.

Sincerely,

Susan Castillo  
Superintendent of Public Instruction