



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Reuben F. Young, Secretary

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GOV. PERDUE PROCLAIMS OCTOBER 18 AS EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS DAY

Encourages Residents to Participate in First Regional Earthquake Drill

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue has proclaimed October 18 as Earthquake Preparedness Day to encourage families, businesses and schools to learn and practice what to do to protect themselves in an earthquake. North Carolina will join other Southeastern states in the first earthquake exercise, scheduled for Oct. 18 at 10:18 a.m.

“While earthquakes in North Carolina are rare, they do happen,” said Perdue. “In fact, last year, much of our state experienced shaking from an earthquake that originated in Virginia. I want to be sure people know what to do to protect themselves.”

Perdue said following three simple steps - drop, cover and hold on - will better protect people in earthquakes. Although ground shaking from earthquakes typically lasts only a minute or two, aftershocks can continue for several days or even weeks.

Federal, state and local emergency management experts and rescue teams agree that the best actions to keep you safe in an earthquake are:

- **Drop to the ground** (before the earthquake makes you fall)
- **Take cover** under a sturdy desk or table
- **Hold on** to the desk until the shaking stops.
- If there is no table or desk nearby, crouch in an inside corner of a building and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.
- Stay away from bookshelves, lamps, TVs, cabinets and other objects as much as possible. Such items may fall and cause injuries.

Just as importantly, there are several actions that people should not do.

- DO NOT get in a doorway. They are not safe and do not protect you from falling or flying objects.
- DO NOT run outside. Running in an earthquake is dangerous. The ground is moving making it easy to fall or be injured by falling structures, trees, debris or glass.

Residents, businesses and schools from North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia are joining together to host the first earthquake drill in the southeast. Similar to the annual tornado drill held each spring, people will be asked to take a few minutes of their day to rehearse what they would do in such an emergency. Since earthquakes happen with no warning, there will be no Emergency Alert System test to announce the drill. Instead, each school, business, agency and family is asked to practice recommended safety techniques on their own.

Additional information and resource guides are available on www.shakeout.org/southeast to help various groups prepare for the exercise. Individuals and agencies are encouraged to register their participation on the website.

“I encourage everyone to take a couple of minutes out of their day to rehearse these potential life-saving actions,” said Perdue.

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