



Central United States Earthquake Consortium

# CUSEC

*a partnership to mitigate disasters and save lives....*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Millions to “ShakeOut” on October 18

In just a few days, on October 18, 2012 at 10:18a.m EDT, more than 1.5 million people across five states and the District of Columbia are expected to take part in the first ever *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*. The ShakeOut is a regional earthquake drill in which participants simultaneously practice the recommended action during an earthquake. This action is known as “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”, which means to:

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD-ON** to it until the shaking stops

The states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia are encouraging their schools, businesses, organizations, government agencies, communities, and households to participate in this historic event.

The ShakeOut is a dedicated time where individuals and communities focus on disaster safety and preparedness activities. Although the primary activity of the ShakeOut is based upon a drill that is similar to a fire or tornado drill, participants in the ShakeOut are encouraged to take other actions to become better prepared for earthquakes and other disasters. This includes securing heavy items to prevent them from causing injuries during an earthquake, creating an emergency plan or updating emergency supply kits, and talking with their families and neighbors about how they might respond to an emergency.

One of the main aspects of the ShakeOut is that people are encouraged to sign-up online, and pledge to participate.

Although the ShakeOut is just days away, ***It is not too late to register to participate!***

In addition to the states participating in the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*, similar drills will also be held on October 18, 2012 in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam, Puerto Rico, British Columbia, and other countries around the world. In September, millions of people also participated in ShakeOut drills held in Japan and New Zealand.

Collectively, there are more than 13 million people expected to participate in the ShakeOut drills October 18, which makes this the largest safety drill ever held. Interested citizens, schools, communities, businesses, etc. are encouraged to visit [www.shakeout.org/southeast](http://www.shakeout.org/southeast) to pledge their participation in the drill. On the website, many resources are available for participants to use to plan their drills including drill manuals, videos, audio drill broadcasts, earthquake scenarios, and more.

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*The Great SouthEast ShakeOut is being coordinated by the Central US Earthquake Consortium, the states of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey and dozens of other partners.*

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