

You're invited (and encouraged) to participate in the Great Washington ShakeOut Earthquake and tsunami drill!



Please join us at 10:17 on 10/17 for [the Great ShakeOut Earthquake/Tsunami Drill!](#)

When? 10:17 a.m., on 10/17 (Or a more convenient time for you)

What? A drill simulating that an earthquake has occurred, and an opportunity to practice how you would protect yourself in that situation. **Drop, Cover, and Hold on to protect yourself, and stay there for a minute!** If you live in a tsunami hazard zone, this is also an excellent time to practice walking your route to high ground!

At 10:17 on 10/17, all Coastal Tsunami Sirens will play the “Wail” sound as part of the drill – not the usual test sound that goes off on the first Monday of each month.

Where? Wherever you are! Earthquakes can strike at any time, so it's not unrealistic that one would happen while you're in the place where you are at 10:17 on 10/17 - why not practice?

Why? Washington is earthquake Country. After California, we have the 2nd-highest risk from earthquakes in the U.S. The State also has more than 3,000 miles of coastline, all susceptible to tsunami hazards. “Drop, Cover, and Hold on” is the best way to protect yourself from the immediate hazards of falling objects, the ground shaking beneath you, and other dangers from earthquakes. Practicing now (while there's not an earthquake) will help ensure that you know how to protect yourself when an earthquake strikes, and that you can do it quickly!

Even with the new [ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning system](#) in Washington, you'll still only get seconds of warning before shaking. Learn how to protect yourself quickly, to reduce your chance of injury.

How to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” depends on where you are. Here is a video resource WA EMD's Geohazards and Outreach team created to help you understand how to best protect yourself in a wide variety of situations where you might be when an earthquake occurs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHm6ZYfg8Pk>.

- *Think the places where you spend the most time (Bed? Your work desk? A room in your home? Etc.?) how would you protect yourself if you received an alert, or felt the ground begin to shake while you were there?*

On October 17th at 10:17 (or a time that works better for you): **Drop, Cover, and Hold on, then do one more thing to get more prepared for an earthquake!**

Register yourself, your family, and/or your organization for the Great Washington ShakeOut Drill today, for free, at <https://www.ShakeOut.org/Washington>.

What do we mean by "do one more thing?"

After the drill is a great time to think about earthquake safety in the places you spend the most time: your workspace, your home, etc. Taking the time to secure items now, will make injury and economic loss much less likely when an earthquake strikes. Think about securing shelves to the walls, installing latches on cabinets, moving heavy objects to lower shelves, many other steps. Consider doing a full "[Home Hazard Hunt](#)" when you have time!

For other examples of "One more thing" you can do, check out the Prepare in a Year guide, which has 12 excellent examples of activities you could do on your own, or with your family/friends/coworkers, etc., and tips on how to get started on each. The guide is available in 6 languages at <https://mil.wa.gov/PIY>

What if I'd like to do more than just Drop, Cover, and Hold on?

You're more than welcome to! The Great ShakeOut is a fantastic opportunity to do things like test your communications plans, or continuity of operations plans to make sure they actually make sense. For some additional resources which include resources on how to plan drills, feel free to see the Drill Manuals available at <https://www.ShakeOut.org/Resources>.

Don't forget, if you want to spend more time planning for a drill, you don't have to hold your drill on the 17th. Register and hold your ShakeOut Drill on a different day. You can't schedule an earthquake, but you can schedule your ShakeOut drill!

More information:

Visit <https://mil.wa.gov/earthquake> to learn more about Washington's earthquake hazard and how to protect yourself

Visit <https://mil.wa.gov/tsunami> to learn more our Washington's tsunami hazards, learn about sirens and where they're located, what they sound like, and to find your evacuation routes!

Visit <https://www.shakeout.org/washington> to register for the Great ShakeOut Drill! Think about registering your family, but also your workplace, your school, or an organization you are part of.

Visit <https://mil.wa.gov/alerts> To learn how to ensure that the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System is enabled on your phone, and can provide seconds of warning before earthquake shaking.

Visit <https://mil.wa.gov/ShakeOut> for resources to help your share information about the ShakeOut, and about Washington's Earthquake/Tsunami hazards. Become a ShakeOut Champion!

Thank you for taking the time to be better prepared for Washington's Earthquake Hazards!

