



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Emergency Management Agency

Ohio Emergency Management Agency • Sima Merick, Executive Director  
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For Immediate Release: **September 28, 2017**



### The *Great ShakeOut* is more than an Earthquake Drill

*On 10.19.17 Ohioans are encouraged to Drop, Cover and Hold On and discuss disaster plans*

**COLUMBUS, OH** -- Don't drop out of your preparedness mode just because September is almost over. FEMA, the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) are encouraging citizens to stay ready and Get Ready to ShakeOut during the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill.

Held annually on the third Thursday in October, ShakeOut is set for October 19th at 10:19 a.m. CUSEC notes though, like fire drills, the earthquake drill can be scheduled for a date and time more suitable for schools and businesses.

"Ohio doesn't experience earthquakes on a large scale, but so far this year, we've had five that ranged between 2.1 and 3.8 magnitude," said Ohio EMA Executive Director Sima Merick. "ShakeOut is more than a one-minute earthquake drill. ShakeOut is intended to get people talking and planning for earthquakes and other potential hazards and disasters such as floods, fires or tornadoes."

What do you do during the ShakeOut drill? Practice the safest response to an earthquake:

- **DROP** where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if it's nearby. If you have mobility issues, either lock the wheels of your wheelchair or stay seated, and bend over.
- **COVER** your head and neck with one arm and hand. If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter. If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall, away from windows.
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If you are under a table or desk for shelter, hold onto it with one hand and be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts.

Planning to participate? Individuals, schools, businesses and organizations can easily register online at [www.shakeout.org/centralus/](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/). Earthquake preparedness information and resources are also available on this site. If you were a registered participant last year, you need only to confirm or update your information.

Additional earthquake preparedness information is also available at [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov). Click on "Earthquakes" in the green menu bar.

To date, more than 2 million people have registered to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut.

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