



October 22, 2020

DROP, COVER and HOLD ON!!



Every day is earthquake season in the U.S. and around the globe. And this year, even with wildfire season raging and hurricane season piling on top of a global pandemic, 12.4 million registrants in the United States still prioritized preparedness in the event of an earthquake by taking part in the **2020 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill**. These participants range from individuals to private sector to state governments and regional entities.

A critical touchpoint for citizen preparedness for all hazards starts in school – while this looks different in some areas this year, the need to increase awareness of the risks has not diminished. As such the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) and Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) recently **partnered to develop a dashboard** depicting nationwide participation rates in the drill among K-12 students. The goal of the dashboard is to utilize the data to target additional outreach for areas with moderate or higher seismic hazard levels and lower levels of participation.

A unique benefit that the Great ShakeOut has to offer in these times is its ability to be conducted remotely – anyone can drop, cover, and hold on anytime, anywhere. In fact, conducting these drills in different situations each year is a good idea, given the no-notice nature of the event.

As if to underscore the ever-present potential for a significant earthquake, a magnitude 7.5 struck near Sand Point, Alaska just a few days after the ShakeOut drill, prompting a tsunami advisory in the area. Helpfully, as part of the day's programming Alaska's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) had just hosted a Facebook Live ShakeOut with recommended actions and Alaska-specific tips. If your community or state has not yet conducted an earthquake drill this year, anyone can register and participate through ShakeOut any time before the end of the year.

While the event is global in nature these days, nearly every single state and territory in the U.S. held an organized ShakeOut drill this year, whether it was conducted at the

state or regional level. This level of engagement continues to demonstrate the way that states are continuing to stand together to increase preparedness even while apart.

If you have a state practice you'd like to highlight as part of this series, please contact [Lauren Goodwillie](#).

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