



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cal EMA CONTACT**

Kelly Huston, Assistant Secretary - (916) 607-7657  
Lori Newquist, Public Information Officer - (916) 508-5648  
[Media@calema.ca.gov](mailto:Media@calema.ca.gov)

## **Cal EMA Joins Local, State and Federal Officials and more than 7.8 Million People to Participate in the Great California ShakeOut Exercise Drill**

BURBANK – The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) joined local, state and federal officials along with more than 7.8 million people throughout the state today in a “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill to highlight the Great California ShakeOut—the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history.

The annual drill, conducted since 2008, is designed to help Californians reduce their risk of death and injury in earthquakes by encouraging them to simultaneously practice the “Drop, Cover and Hold On” safety procedure that Cal EMA, the American Red Cross and other emergency agencies recommend the public take when an earthquake occurs.

Following a demonstration of Ready America’s BIG SHAKER earthquake simulator, the “Drop, Cover and Hold On” drill by students at Providence High School in Burbank and an evacuation drill at the neighboring Providence St. Joseph Medical Center (PSJMC), Cal EMA Secretary Matthew Bettenhausen joined United States Geological Survey Seismologist, Dr. Lucy Jones, California Earthquake Authority CEO, Glen Pomeroy, PSJMC CEO, Barry Wolfman and other officials in a press conference to discuss the importance of earthquake preparedness, earthquake insurance and related issues.

“It is encouraging to see so many Californian’s embrace the preparedness message and take advantage of events such as this to learn how to be prepared for an earthquake”, said Cal EMA Secretary, Matthew Bettenhausen. The incredible level of public participation in this drill is possible because of the coordination of stakeholders from every sector—from schools to businesses to community organizations—who understand that when it comes to the resiliency of our state, all Californians must take part in their own preparedness.”

In addition to observing and participating in the events in Burbank, Cal EMA staff participated in the drill at its facilities in Los Alamitos, Mather and Oakland, as well as, the drill and the Sacramento Area launch of its partnership with Citizen Voice at Pride Industries in Sacramento.

The Great California ShakeOut is sponsored by the Earthquake Country Alliance, [www.earthquakecountry.org](http://www.earthquakecountry.org) which is made up of Cal EMA; the Southern California Earthquake Center; the United States Geological Survey; the California Earthquake Authority; the American Red Cross; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the California Department of Education; State Farm and many others.

To learn more about emergency preparedness please visit [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov) or [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org).

#Cal EMA#