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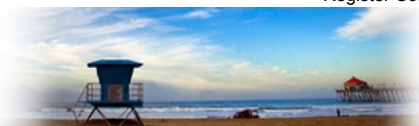
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Great ShakeOut draws closer

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BY JESSICA RUBIO / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Californians will join millions of people worldwide as they "Drop, Cover and Hold On" at 10:17 a.m. Thursday during the 2013 Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills.

The Great ShakeOut is an annual event for people in homes, schools and organizations to practice earthquake safety and preparedness.



Jennifer Rodil, graduate student, holds onto the side handle of her seat while riding inside the Quake Cottage, a trailer designed to simulate an 8.0 earthquake at Cal State Fullerton on Tuesday. While fun, the Quake Cottage delivers a jolt that reminds riders that earthquakes can quickly become hazardous situations, said Sue Fisher, emergency management coordinator at Cal State Fullerton.

ANIBAL ORTIZ, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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The earthquake drills are also meant to encourage people to review and update their emergency preparedness strategies and equipment and to secure their space to avoid damage and injuries.

So far, 9.4 million participants in California are registered for Thursday's drills.

Some Orange County participants include Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University, UC Irvine and other local campuses, the County of Orange, local governments and businesses, school districts and other organizations.

Because the County of Orange has 25 departments and agencies and about 16,000 employees, each agency will decide what earthquake safety method works best, said Howard Sutter, County Executive Office public information officer.

"We encourage employees to have a place in the office where they can take cover that will provide protection from items that may fall rather than trying to evacuate from the building," said Sutter.

Cal State Fullerton started its earthquake awareness activities Tuesday with the "Quake Cottage" simulator that allowed riders to experience an 8.0 earthquake in a specially designed trailer.

Information about earthquake protection was also available to the campus community.

To register for the Great ShakeOut visit shakeout.org.

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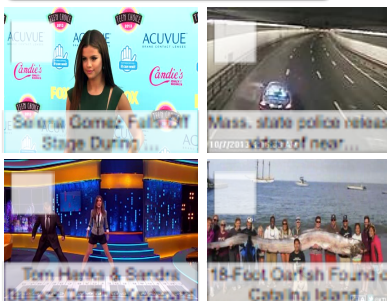
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