



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 24, 2011

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

THE GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

I would like to encourage you to meet your school or district earthquake drill requirements by participating in the third annual Great California ShakeOut on October 20, 2011. The first step is to register your school or district today on the Great California ShakeOut Web site at <http://www.shakeout.org/> (Outside Source).

On October 21, 2010, more than 7.9 million Californians practiced "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" and other safety procedures as part of the second ShakeOut drill. Students and staff at more than 360 districts and many private schools accounted for nearly 5.5 million of these participants! Broad school participation from the start inspired businesses, organizations, government agencies, and individuals throughout the state to participate. The ShakeOut will be held on the third Thursday of October each year.

Registered participants will be given detailed information for their drills. The California Department of Education has worked with many partners to create age-appropriate resources for planning drills, promoting participation, teaching about earthquakes and preparedness, and educating families. You can find these resources on the ShakeOut "How Schools Can Participate" Web page at <http://www.shakeout.org/schools/> (Outside Source).

The ShakeOut is designed to provide a sense of urgency about earthquakes and to encourage people, organizations, schools, and communities to get prepared, to practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved. Schools are leaders in preparedness, and your participation will set an example for many others to get involved.

The ShakeOut is organized by the Earthquake Country Alliance, which includes many organizations committed to emergency preparedness. Members include the Southern California Earthquake Center, U.S. Geological Survey, California Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, California Earthquake Authority, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Bay Area Earthquake Alliance, California Department of Education, California Seismic Safety Commission, Redwood Coast Tsunami Workgroup, Caltech, University of Southern California, Association of Bay Area Governments, State Farm, county offices of education, and many others.

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If you have any questions regarding the Great California ShakeOut, please contact Mark Benthien, Executive Director, Earthquake Country Alliance, by phone at 213-740-1560 or by e-mail at benthien@shakeout.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Torlakson

TT:sp