

Dear Families, October 17, 2024

Today we participated in **The Great Washington ShakeOut**; the state's largest earthquake and tsunami drill. During this drill, the entire organization practiced how to [Drop Cover, and Hold On](https://www.earthquakecountry.org/step5), to stay safe during earthquake shaking. While we practiced how to stay safe in our office environment, now is a good time to extend that safety to other places where you spend time so you can protect yourself appropriately wherever you are when an earthquake strikes.

Disasters can happen at any time and place: at home, in the middle of the night, during your commute, or other times. Bringing disaster preparedness home is important. Be more prepared for disasters with **3 easy steps**:

1. **Know your hazards**
	* Learn about the natural hazards where you live, work, and play by visiting your local emergency management agency’s website.
	* Conduct a “Home Hazard Hunt” to identify hazards in your home like unsecured furniture, fire hazards, and other potential issues. Begin with this: [Guide to earthquake hazards in your home](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/ger_homeowners_guide_earthquakes.pdf).
	* Help your family learn about hazards through the activities found at [mil.wa.gov/shakeout](https://mil.wa.gov/shakeout).
	* Learn how you’ll be alerted of dangers in your area, and how to enable ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning on your phones at [mil.wa.gov/alerts](https://mil.wa.gov/alerts)
2. **Make Plans**
	* Things to consider are how to reunite with your family, where your meeting place is to reunite with family if you cannot return home, and who your out-of-area contacts are.
	* Practice “[drop, cover, and hold on,](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHm6ZYfq8Pk)” and practice together. Know how to stay safe during the shaking, even if you’re in different rooms. Be safe during the shaking, **then** reunite, once it’s over.
	* If you live on the coast, earthquake shaking may be your only warning that a tsunami is approaching. [Learn and practice your tsunami evacuation routes.](https://mil.wa.gov/tsunami-resources#evacuation)
3. **Build Kits**
	* In Washington we suggest everyone prepare supplies at home to be at least [2 weeks ready](https://mil.wa.gov/personal) in case you need to shelter in place after a disaster**.**
	* Everyone in your home should also have a “go-bag” to take with them if you need to leave in a hurry, such as during a fire or in a tsunami zone. Don’t forget about making go-bags for your pets, too!
	* Personalize your kits to your own needs – think about prescriptions, eyewear, pet supplies, and other personal needs – If you need it during a normal day, you’ll need it in an emergency, too!

Thank you for helping prepare our community. For additional resources, please visit [mil.wa.gov/preparedness](https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness).

**[Insert Logo Here]**

Sincerely,

[Insert Name]

[Organization Name]

[Address/Contact Info]