



## NEWS RELEASE

### Idaho Office of Emergency Management

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## October is Earthquake Awareness Month

*The Great Idaho ShakeOut Helps Idahoans Learn Earthquake Preparedness Measures*

**BOISE** – More than 93,000 Idahoans signed up for **The Great Idaho ShakeOut** last year, and this year's numbers are expected to meet or exceed that. **The Great Idaho ShakeOut** Earthquake Drill takes place this year on October 18<sup>TH</sup>.

"We are pleased with the growth in participation for **The Great Idaho ShakeOut**," said IOEM Director Brad Richy. "Each year more schools, organizations and individuals sign up to **Drop Cover and Hold On!** This level of preparedness is critically important in a state with our rate of seismic activity." Idaho is now the 8<sup>th</sup> most seismically active state in the country.

Individuals, businesses, organizations, schools, and government agencies can register and take part in the **Great Idaho ShakeOut** earthquake drill at 10:18 AM MST. The steps are easy to remember: **Drop Cover and Hold On.**

"Damage and deaths from earthquakes are often very preventable, said Dr. Lee Liberty, Boise State Seismologist. "If I felt violent ground shaking, I would immediately drop, cover and hold on. What you want to do is prevent something from falling on your head, since injuries caused by falling objects are the most common earthquake-related injury."

After the ground stops shaking, be sure you know how to turn off utilities like natural gas, electricity, and water. Throughout the year everyone should have emergency supplies of water, food, and necessary equipment so they can survive for *at least* three days without outside help following any major disaster. Remember to plan for your pets, children, and any special needs, including medical conditions.

To register for the Great Idaho ShakeOut please go to [www.IdahoShakeOut.org](http://www.IdahoShakeOut.org)

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*The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is a Division of the Idaho Military Division. The services we provide are to facilitate emergency management in Idaho, and to assist neighboring states. The men and women of this Division are dedicated to their mission of protecting the lives and property of the people of Idaho, as well as preserving the environmental and the economic health of Idaho.*

