

September 17, 2015

The American Red Cross Cascades Region is pleased to support the Great ShakeOut on October 15, 2015. While we can't predict when the next earthquake will happen, we can take steps today to increase our level of preparedness and create a more resilient community.

As part of our commitment to this important event, the Red Cross Cascades Region, which supports communities across Oregon and Southwest Washington, has scheduled our annual earthquake drill to coincide with the Great ShakeOut on Oct. 15 at 10:15 a.m. We have encouraged our volunteer network, business, and community partners—which represent thousands of individuals throughout the region—to participate in this important safety exercise and "Drop, Cover and Hold On" with us.

The Red Cross is also supporting this exercise by hosting our annual Shakeout "selfie" event. ShakeOut participants are encouraged to take a photo of themselves during the exercise and tweet the image using the hashtag #ShakeOutSelfie and tagging @RedCrossCascade.

In addition to practicing earthquake safety, the Great ShakeOut is a great opportunity to update emergency plans and know what to do before, during and after an earthquake. Information and resources for making a plan and building a disaster kit are available on the free <u>Red Cross</u> <u>Earthquake app</u> and our local <u>Prepare! guide</u>.

The Great ShakeOut is an important reminder of the earthquake risk we face in the Pacific Northwest and the need to prepare so that we are ready to respond wherever, whenever disasters strike. The Red Cross has long been a leader in preparing our community, and we look forward to joining families, individuals and business leaders around the region as we "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" on October 15 at 10:15 a.m.

Sincerely,

Amy Shlossman Chief Executive Officer American Red Cross Cascades Region