



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Jason York, Emergency Manager, 541-682-5664

## **Eugene Joins in The Great Shake Out National Earthquake Awareness Drill** Some Residents Will Receive A Test Emergency Alert Message

This Thursday, October 17, 2013, at 10:17a.m. is The Great Shake Out, a national drill drawing attention to earthquake awareness and of the importance of using the “drop, cover, hold” move to save lives. Oregonians can join by participating in the 2013 Great Oregon Shakeout. Many City of Eugene work units, including the Eugene Public Library, will be participating in this event. Most City services will be unaffected but some may be interrupted briefly.

As part of the drill, approximately 23,000 residences and businesses through the downtown and other areas, primarily in north and west Eugene, will be contacted by the Community Emergency Notification System (CENS). A CENS phone message will ask people to consider how they would respond to an earthquake and will inform them about Alert Me, an emergency notification system designed to deliver messages via phone and text message throughout Lane County.

Earthquakes are a growing concern in our area especially due to the potential impact of a quake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Recent reports, such as the Oregon Resilience Plan, indicate there is a 33% chance a large earthquake will strike our area in the next 50 years.

In addition to earthquakes, other types of emergencies that can be common in this area include flooding and windstorms. The best way to prepare for any emergency is to know how to immediately protect yourself, to know how to contact or meet up with those important to you, and to have supplies to sustain yourself for 3 days or more. For more Eugene emergency management information go to [www.eugene-or.gov/emergencymanagement](http://www.eugene-or.gov/emergencymanagement)

The Alert Me system is set up to send phone and text messages directly to individuals in an emergency. Some of the uses of this system include: tsunami warnings, emergency evacuations, natural disaster alerts, missing child alerts, hazardous materials incidents, and neighborhood emergencies. Residents can sign up to receive Alert Me messages at [www.lcog.org/alertme](http://www.lcog.org/alertme).

Other local organizations participating in the Great Oregon Shake Out include Lane County, the City of Springfield, and the University of Oregon.

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