



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 15, 2020

Great ShakeOut

As we commemorate the 31st anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, California and its residents must recommit to making our communities more resilient and better prepared for future earthquakes and other emergencies.

California is home to several active seismic zones and over the next 30 years, the state has a more than 99 percent chance of experiencing a magnitude 6.7 earthquake. Individuals, businesses and communities can take steps ahead of time to protect life and property when a serious earthquake strikes.

Launched last year, California's first-in-the-nation earthquake early warning system – Earthquake Warning California – uses earthquake science and technology to notify residents in advance of shaking, giving people brief but vital moments of warning to take lifesaving action. My first state budget included \$16.3 million in funding to finish the system and launch an education campaign, culminating years of work by experts from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), U.S. Geological Survey, UC Berkeley, the California Institute of Technology and other partners. Through a partnership with Google this year, all updated Android devices in California now automatically receive earthquake alerts powered by California's early warning technology.

As part of our earthquake preparedness efforts, Cal OES this month announced a public awareness campaign, "Don't Get Caught Off Guard," which directs residents and visitors to no-cost tools, resources and information, including the smartphone MyShake App, Android Earthquake Alerts, government-issued Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) and the earthquake.ca.gov website. Cal OES also encourages Californians to take part in the annual "Great ShakeOut" on October 15, practicing "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" or "Lock, Cover, and Hold On" drills.

Nothing can replace families having a plan for earthquakes and other emergencies. I urge all Californians to learn more about earthquake safety measures they can take and to download the state's innovative earthquake early warning app at www.earthquake.ca.gov, and register for this year's "Great ShakeOut" at www.ShakeOut.org/California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom