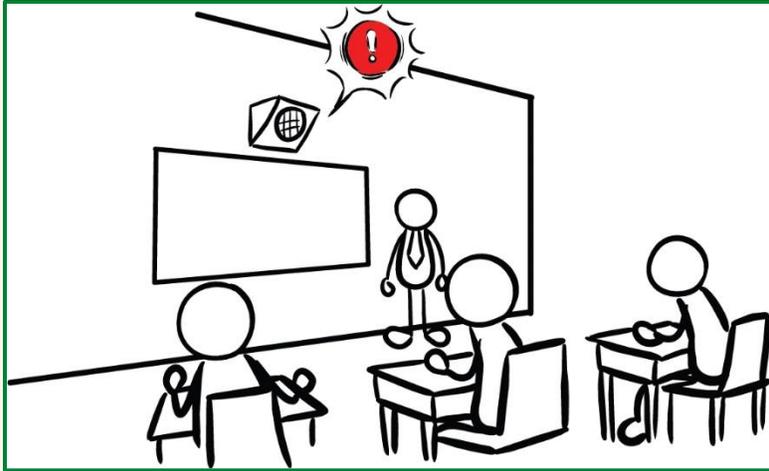




# School Safety and Emergency Management

Monthly Minute: Earthquake Preparedness October 2024

Monthly Minute is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by the Oregon Department of Education.



Earthquake! Drop, cover and hold-on! October is the month for **The Great Oregon Shakeout**: when we collectively practice and review procedures for responding to an earthquake. Even with the advantage of advanced warning systems like **ShakeAlert**, we will only get seconds or tens of seconds depending on location—not enough time to review what should be done to protect ourselves. Practicing today could save lives tomorrow. Find more resources for planning your drill at [ShakeOut.org/Resources](https://www.shakeout.org/resources).

When planning for your earthquake drill, talk with your students and staff about what should be done and why. Students should DROP onto their hands and knees, which will protect them from being knocked down hit by falling or flying objects. They should COVER their heads and

neck with their arms, crawl underneath their desks and HOLD on for shelter while remaining bent over to protect vital organs.

Identify spots in your usual instructional spaces where a student or staff member can take cover and hold on. This might be easy in a classroom with desks. But it might be challenging in a gymnasium. In these spaces, it is important to remember the purpose of the drill: find an appropriate place that minimizes the risk of falling debris. In a gym, that might be along an interior wall away from hanging basketball hoops or wall-mounted scoreboards.

If your school is in a tsunami zone, be sure to review evacuation and reunification procedures. October's focus on earthquake preparedness is the perfect time to review how your school and district will manage a catastrophic event. Pull out your plans like you would your school team's playbook. Make sure people in key positions know how they will handle their part. And make sure everyone knows who they report to. One of the biggest causes of confusion in a disaster is the lack of a unified supervisory structure. This happens when one person is trying to handle more than they should. Find out how to organize your staff with **Incident Command System fundamentals**.

*(continued on next page)*

**This Month...** Conduct an earthquake drill this month. If you are in a tsunami zone, consider your evacuation routes and review reunification through a tabletop exercise.



**Conduct an earthquake drill.**

**Up Next...** November's Monthly Minute will cover **communications plans** and also address considerations for **communicable disease management plans** ahead of winter weather.



**Conduct a Secure Drill in November.**



# School Safety and Emergency Management

Monthly Minute: Earthquake Preparedness October 2024

Below are the steps to take during an earthquake: Drop! Cover! Hold on! Review and practice these steps with your students and staff during the Great Oregon Shakeout on October 17<sup>th</sup>! Visit the [Oregon Shakeout site](#) for resources.



*(continued from previous page)*

A tabletop exercise is a great way to review roles and responsibilities. Just take out your plan at your next faculty meeting and start the exercise from after the earth stops shaking: how do you evacuate, take account and potentially relocate to another site so you can reunify your students with their families?

A high-quality emergency operations plan will consider actions to take before, during and after an earthquake. Set goals that are achievable in any time or place. Here are some things to consider before, during and after an earthquake:

- Inspect your facilities early and often to identify weak points that could worsen in an earthquake.
- Establish and practice earthquake drills in your school. International shakeout day is the third Thursday of the month (**October 17th**).
- Have a communications plan that will notify parents of an early dismissal if your facilities become unsafe to occupy.
- Have a plan in place that will support all persons with access and functional needs—consider everyone who may need additional assistance in a disaster.

**Contact us for assistance** planning and practicing your emergency drills.

## Contact Information



Scan or click the QR code to visit the School Safety and Emergency Management website with additional school emergency preparedness resources, and to **sign up for the monthly training and technical assistance sessions.**

## Additional Resources

[ShakeAlert](#): Information on the USGS early warning system.

[ShakeAlert Educational Resources](#): for use in the classroom and informal environments.

Oregon Emergency Management [local contacts list](#).