

EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS MONTH

Idaho recognizes October as Earthquake Awareness Month in remembrance of the 6.9 magnitude Borah Peak earthquake, which took 2 lives and caused millions of dollars in damage back in October of 1983. This year, on **October 19th** at **10:19am**, every home, business, school, and any other organization in Idaho can participate in **The Great Idaho ShakeOut**. Register to participate at shakeout.org/idaho/, and get ready to drop, cover, and hold on!

Why participate in The Great Idaho ShakeOut? The active Squaw Creek, Big Flat, and Jakes Creek fault lines are located around 25 miles north of the City of Boise. Because of this, earthquakes are considered a realistic hazard in Ada County. A magnitude 6 or 7 earthquake from one of these fault lines may impact Ada County significantly (Idaho Geological Survey, 2009). Participating in this state wide drill will help you become more prepared for earthquake events.

Earthquakes occur without warning, so it's important to know how to react if one suddenly occurs. Preparedness officials agree that if you feel shaking, you should immediately **DROP**, **COVER**, and **HOLD ON** to protect yourself. Doing so can reduce your chances of sustaining injuries or death during earthquakes.



DROP where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby (ECA, 2021).



COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand.

- If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter.
- If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows).
- Stay on your knees; bend over to protect vital organs (ECA, 2021).



HOLD ON until the shaking stops.

- *Under shelter*: hold on with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts.
- *No shelter*: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands (ECA, 2021).

How you drop, cover, and hold on may look differently depending on the setting you're in. What if you're in a store buying groceries or in a stadium at a sporting event? What if you're driving or at home in bed? Click this link to review the *Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions* from the Earthquake Country Alliance so you can learn how to protect yourself in various settings:

https://www.earthquakecountry.org/library/ShakeOut_Recommended_Earthquake_Safety_Actions-EN.pdf

References

1. Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) (2009). Putting down roots in earthquake country. Retrieved from: [Link to site](#)
2. Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) (2021). Recommended Earthquake Safety Actions. Retrieved from: [Link to site](#)