

Emergency Preparedness Pointer

OCTOBER 2017

IDAHO IS EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY

Idaho is not California, however, several earthquakes are documented in Idaho every year. Most of these earthquakes are small and not always felt, but over 20 earthquakes since 1884 have caused damage in Idaho. Studies state that Idaho has a damaging earthquake of a 7.0 magnitude or higher about every 25 years. Older buildings are most susceptible to damages from large earthquakes. Earthquake likelihood varies throughout regions of the state. Idaho Office of Emergency Management created an earthquake handbook that is available to the public. To view the handbook, visit: <https://adacounty.id.gov/Portals/Accem/Doc/PDF/eqcountry.pdf> One of the best ways to be prepared is to take part in the [Great Idaho ShakeOut](#). Drop, Cover, and Hold On with the rest of Idaho on October 19th at 10:19 AM.

WHY DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON?

Severe earthquakes can be violent enough to make it impossible to run, walk, or crawl. It is safer to drop yourself to the ground instead of being thrown there. In the U.S., more injuries occur from falling objects than any other earthquake hazard. Studies over the last several decades have shown that people are far more likely to be injured from unsecured objects falling than to die in a building collapse. Strict building codes in the U.S. and other earthquake prone countries have greatly reduced the potential of collapse. However, old buildings composed of unreinforced masonry or adobe may not be safe. In this case, it is best to get outside and away from the building as safely as you can.



DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON ALTERNATIVES

What if no cover is available? The recommendation is to get low on the floor next to an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms until shaking stops.

What if I'm in bed? Stay in bed and protect your head and neck with a pillow.

What if I'm outside? Move to a clear area if you can safely do so and drop to the ground. Avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings and vehicles.

What if I'm driving? Pull over to the side of the road, stop, set the parking break, and stay in the vehicle. Avoid bridges and overhead hazards.

What if I have an access or functional need? The image at the right illustrates what the best course of action is if you use a cane, walker or wheelchair.



Don't forget to follow us on social media! We will be posting preparedness tips leading up to October 19th in preparation for the Great Idaho ShakeOut. Click on the Twitter and Facebook icons below.



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Earthquake Drill.

October 19, 2017

www.ShakeOut.org

