
Residents Encouraged to Participate in The Great British Columbia ShakeOut

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) encourages residents to Drop, Cover and Hold On in The Great British Columbia ShakeOut on October 15 at 10:15 a.m. RDN facilities will be holding earthquake emergency drills and RDN transit buses will be pulling over to take part. British Columbia is considered high risk for earthquakes and ShakeOutBC is an opportunity to practice how to be prepared during an earthquake.

Participating in ShakeOutBC at home, school or the office is easy using the following simple steps.

Plan Your Drill:

- Register at shakeoutbc.ca to be counted, get email updates and more.
- Have a Drop, Cover and Hold On drill on October 15 at 10:15 a.m.
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements to your emergency plan.

Be Prepared for Earthquakes:

- Ensure you have the necessary supplies; you may need to remain in place for at least 72 hours but more likely two weeks after an earthquake.
- Do a “hazard hunt” for items that might fall during an earthquake and secure them.
- Create a personal or family emergency plan using the downloadable workbook at rdn.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness-workbook.

An important part of being prepared for an emergency is staying informed. One way to do this is by subscribing to the RDN’s emergency notification system, Voyent Alert, at rdn.bc.ca/voyent-alert. In an emergency, you will be notified by text, email, app or phone about what to do, where to go and what to be ready for. On October 15 at 10:15 a.m., there will be a test of the Voyent Alert system. Registered users will get an alert to drop, cover and hold on!

We encourage all residents to review their home emergency plans, practice drills with family members and to learn more about how to be prepared for any type of emergency. Now is also a good time to:

- Update your grab and go kit. See what to put in it here: rdn.bc.ca/be-grab-and-go-ready.
- Talk to your neighbours about a neighbourhood emergency plan.
- Make an Emergency Pet Plan using resources available at rdn.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness.

For more information on what to do during an earthquake and emergency preparedness in the RDN, visit shakeoutbc.ca, rdn.bc.ca/earthquake and rdn.bc.ca/emergency-services.

**Get Involved RDN!**

Key Points

- Residents across the region are encouraged to take part in The Great BC ShakeOut on October 15 at 10:15 a.m. by practicing Drop, Cover and Hold On.
- RDN facilities and transit buses will participate in earthquake drills, highlighting the importance of emergency preparedness in a high-risk earthquake area.
- The RDN is encouraging residents to update emergency plans and supplies, register for Voyent Alert and watch for a test alert during ShakeOut.

Key Facts

- More than 3,000 earthquakes occur in British Columbia each year, and a damaging earthquake is expected to occur somewhere in B.C. about once every decade.
- There is a one-in-three probability that a major, damaging earthquake will occur in the next 50 years.
- Because residents may only have seconds to respond when shaking starts, emergency management experts recommend knowing and practicing Drop, Cover and Hold On to reduce the risk of injury.

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