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Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Presentation Regarding Earthquake Preparedness and Clackamas County Great ShakeOut Drill

Previous Board Action/Review	Annual Great ShakeOut presentation and drill last done in October 2025.		
Performance Clackamas	1. Ensure safe, secure, and livable communities		
Counsel Review	N/A	Procurement Review	N/A
Contact Person	Jonny Lewis	Contact Phone	503-250-2678

REQUEST: Informational only.

BACKGROUND: Oregon is earthquake country, and earthquakes can occur from several seismic sources. In March 1993, the magnitude 5.6 Scotts Mills earthquake caused damage throughout the region, including significant damage to Molalla High School. Oregon also faces the potential for a larger earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the Pacific Coast.

Clackamas County participates in the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill consistent with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 401.900. The drill provides County employees an opportunity to Drop, Cover, and Hold On, the recommended protective action during earthquake shaking. Residents, businesses, schools, and community organizations are also encouraged to participate.

In addition, this drill reinforces situational awareness following earthquake shaking. Once shaking stops, individuals should assess their surroundings for hazards, anticipate aftershocks, and determine whether evacuation or other protective actions are appropriate. This reinforces that earthquake preparedness includes not only knowing how to protect oneself during shaking, but also understanding how to safely respond to conditions immediately afterward.

Employees and community members are encouraged to use the Great ShakeOut as an opportunity to consider their broader preparedness. This includes developing or reviewing household emergency plans, identifying how family members will communicate and reunite following a disaster, maintaining emergency supplies at home, work, and in vehicles, and identifying and mitigating objects that could fall or move during an earthquake.

Video Link: [Drop, Cover, and Hold On – Protect Yourself During an Earthquake](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Informational only

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Nibouar
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