



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland ShakeOut Celebrates ADA

City hosts inclusionary earthquake preparedness fair, flash mob of people with disabilities demonstrating "Drop/Lock, Cover, Hold On" to mark 25th Anniversary of ADA

Oakland, CA – Hundreds of participants are expected at the Oakland ShakeOut to Celebrate ADA event on Thursday, October 15. The annual ShakeOut drill provides an opportunity for everyone to practice what to do when an earthquake occurs. It will feature an inclusionary earthquake preparedness fair and a speaker program with emergency preparedness experts and disability/access and functional needs advocates. A flash mob at 10:15 a.m. will demonstrate the "Drop/Lock, Cover, Hold On" actions to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. Hosted by the City of Oakland, the event runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, in front of historic City Hall, 14th Street and Broadway. Join us as we mark the 2015 Great California ShakeOut and the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf will open the speakers program at 9:30 a.m. Additional speakers include representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the Pacific ADA Center and the Center for Independent Living. During the program, hear a special tribute to the late Richard Devylder, a disability rights activist who touched so many lives while serving as Chief of the Office for Access and Functional Needs at CalOES.

The flash mob at 10:15 a.m. will demonstrate the "Drop, Cover, Hold On" and "Lock, Cover, Hold On" protocols meant to protect lives during seismic events. The latter is the appropriate action for wheelchair users to take to reduce injury and death during earthquakes. The ShakeOut is our opportunity to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes.

For folks who have not felt a seismic event, The Big Shaker – the world's biggest, mobile earthquake simulator – offers a unique experience. It can simulate earthquakes up to magnitude 8.0. The simulations are designed to demonstrate how to avoid personal injury during an earthquake, including how to secure household items.

Besides The Big Shaker, the free fair will have interactive demonstrations and information displays hosted by the City's preparedness partners as well as fire truck and emergency equipment displays. The steps we take now before a big earthquake will determine what our lives will be like afterwards.

More than 10 million Californians are registered to participate in this year's ShakeOut drill. The International ShakeOut Day of Action on October 15 at 10:15 a.m. is a day of special events featuring the largest earthquake drill ever, organized to inspire many to get ready for big earthquakes, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes. The ShakeOut drill will occur in houses, schools, businesses and public spaces. Visit ShakeOut.org/register to pledge your participation.

(more)

**Oakland ShakeOut
Celebrates ADA**

October 13, 2015
Page Two

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 established unequivocally the right to employment and life in the community for persons with disabilities and was based on the principle that it is not physical or mental disability that prevents people from fully participating in society, but rather physical and attitudinal barriers that create inequality of opportunity. As a leader in integrating people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency preparedness efforts, Oakland will honor the contributions of disability civil rights advocates and the community partners who support disaster preparedness of all persons by celebrating this sweeping law's 25th anniversary at this year's Shakeout.

For additional information on Oakland's ShakeOut for ADA event, visit oaklandnet.com/ShakeOutADA or call (510) 444-CITY.

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