



pennsylvania
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

The Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill and Halloween Safety Tips

Join Us
for the
World's Largest
Earthquake Drill.

Shake
Out

www.shakeout.org

The Great ShakeOut is a drill designed to educate the public about how to prepare for and protect themselves during a large earthquake. Everyone, everywhere, should know how to protect themselves in an earthquake. Even if earthquakes are rare where you live, they may happen where you or your family travel. The annual Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill is an annual opportunity for people in homes, schools, and organizations to practice what to do during earthquakes, and to improve preparedness. The Great ShakeOut began in California in 2008 and has grown to become a world-wide earthquake awareness program and a chance to practice what to do during an earthquake.

On **October 15th at 10:15 a.m.** millions of people in schools, businesses, government offices, organizations, and households will practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” and other aspects of their emergency plan. FEMA has broken the United States into geographical areas for the Great ShakeOut. The Great Northeast ShakeOut encompasses states in the northeastern portion of the United States and includes Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. We encourage all citizens of Pennsylvania to know what to do during and after an earthquake. Although earthquakes are rare in Pennsylvania, we should all be knowledgeable about earthquakes and all hazards that may occur.

We encourage you to register to be counted by going to www.shakeout.org/northeast/register.

In MOST situations, you will reduce your chance of injury if you:

DROP down onto your hands and knees (before the earthquake knocks you down). This position protects you from falling but allows you to still move if necessary.

COVER your head and neck with both arms, clasp your neck with your hands. If a sturdy desk or table is nearby, crawl beneath it while keeping one arm over your head. (If there is no shelter nearby, only then should you get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won't fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.)

HOLD ON to your shelter (or to your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.



Halloween Safety Tips for Everyone



Halloween safety may be the last thing on your radar. After all, you're either out trick-or-treating, at home handing out candy, or hosting a spooky party. If you do have some fear around Halloween that's not caused by horror movies, you're not alone. Here are some quick tips on what you can do to prevent accidents from happening this Halloween.

As a Parent/Caregiver:

- All children should be supervised by an adult.
- Choose fire-resistant materials and bright-colors for costumes.
- Put emergency identification on your child's costume or around their wrist.
- Include their name, phone number, and address in case they become separated from you.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and treat bags, especially if the costume is a dark color.
- Check the ingredients of all face paint or makeup confirming it is "made with U.S. approved colored additives," "laboratory tested," "non-toxic," or "meets federal standards for safe cosmetics." You could also make homemade Halloween makeup.

As a Trick-or-Treater:

- Always trick-or-treat with an adult chaperone.
- Be careful when crossing streets, even in your own neighborhood. Rather than cutting through yards, use designated crosswalks and always look both ways before your feet leave the sidewalk.
- Wear a comfortable costume and shoes with a solid tread to prevent slipping.
- Only trick-or-treat at homes with the lights on.
- Carry a flashlight with new batteries.
- Remove masks when walking from house to house.
- Wait to eat your treats until you get home. That way, parents and caregivers can inspect the contents of your treat container and throw away any suspicious-looking goodies.

As a Homeowner/Renter:

- Make sure your home is well-lit and visitors can find their way to your front door safely.
- Clear any tripping hazards from your yard and walkways, even if you're not participating in trick-or-treating.
- Keep all pets restrained properly.



Additional Resources

PEMA: <http://www.pema.pa.gov>

ReadyPA: www.readypa.org

The Great Northeast Shakeout: www.shakeout.org/northeast

Drop Cover and Hold On: www.dropcoverholdon.org

CDC Halloween Safety: <http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/>

Halloween Safety: <http://www.halloween-safety.com/>

Halloween Safety Tips: <http://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>

