

# WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL GUARD, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION, WASHINGTON YOUTH ACADEMY  
CAMP MURRAY, WA 98430



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Great ShakeOut celebrates 10th anniversary in Washington

Tsunami sirens will sound warning tone at about 10:21 a.m.

For the 10th year in a row, hundreds of thousands of people in Washington state will participate in the world's largest earthquake and tsunami drill: The Great ShakeOut.

At **10:21 a.m. on Oct. 21**, you're invited to drop, cover and hold on wherever you are – whether it's at work, home or school. At about the same time, **Washington's network of 122 coastal tsunami sirens will be tested using the wailing sound of a tsunami warning**, not the Westminster Chimes that are used during the monthly tests. PLEASE DO NOT CALL 911. NOAA Weather Radios will also sound an alarm.

Of note, there are many new sirens on the coast so the sound could come from new directions. Some new tsunami sirens are still being worked on and may not be used during the test.

More than 1 million Washington residents have registered to participate in the earthquake and tsunami drill. Registration isn't required but it helps us with understanding how effective our outreach is. It's also free and easy to register at <https://www.shakeout.org/washington/>.

If you're continuing to work from home, take this opportunity to examine your environment for hazards and talk to family about where everyone would gather if your home was damaged and you were separated. If you're at a workplace or have kids in school, ask about what plans are in place for when an earthquake happens. You can [use this recording](#) to help with your experience before the drill takes place.

During the event, use #ShakeOut on social media to join many others across the country posting pictures of themselves under desks or using proper earthquake protection techniques. You can also tag our Twitter account at [@waShakeOut](https://twitter.com/waShakeOut).

We also encourage residents to “do one more thing” to get prepared. Download the free Prepare in a Year guide to find little steps to take each month to get prepared at <https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness>.

If you're on the coast, consider walking your evacuation route – or at least figure out where you would need to go to evacuate. You can find maps and how the sirens work at <https://mil.wa.gov/tsunami>.

If you hear a tsunami siren wailing any other time than on Oct. 21, immediately follow the closest tsunami evacuation route inland or to high ground. This is your warning that a tsunami is approaching and you need to evacuate the inundation zone as soon as possible. If you are on the coast and you feel the ground shaking, drop, cover and hold on to protect yourself. When the shaking stops, immediately follow the closest tsunami evacuation route inland or to high ground. Do not wait to hear a tsunami siren or to receive an official tsunami alert – the shaking is your warning that a tsunami may be on its way.

## **LIVE EVENTS**

At noon on Oct. 21, the Washington Emergency Management Division will field your earthquake-related questions on [our Facebook page](#). If you have a question you want us to talk about and can't make it, feel free to email us at [public.education@mil.wa.gov](mailto:public.education@mil.wa.gov).

For media interested in covering the Great Washington ShakeOut, the state Emergency Operations Center located on Camp Murray in Pierce County will make itself available for video with staff on hand for interviews. Our staff continue to respond to COVID-19 and their regular duties, but will practice drop, cover & hold on for the drill at 10:21 a.m. on Oct. 21. You must RSVP ahead of time to [steven.friederich@mil.wa.gov](mailto:steven.friederich@mil.wa.gov). Masks are mandatory and there is a health screening ahead of time. Our Emergency Operations Center supervisor strongly encourages all visitors to be vaccinated before visiting our EOC as the facility and its staff are mission critical for state emergency operations. The Seattle School District, where media have typically been invited, remains closed except for "essential personnel only."

## **Be a Part of ShakeOut!**

Register at [www.ShakeOut.org/Washington](http://www.ShakeOut.org/Washington) to practice and improve your level of earthquake and tsunami safety. Everyone everywhere can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, government agencies, and organizations are all invited to join in at 10:21 am on 10/21.