

# CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



## South Carolina to ShakeOut for Earthquake Awareness Week

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Charleston, SC (October 15, 2013): South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley is proclaiming Earthquake Awareness Week for 2013 to be observed October 13-19 in South Carolina. The Charleston Fire Department encourages everyone to take this opportunity to learn about our state's seismic fault system and how to best prepare for earthquakes. A highlight of the week will be the Great Southeast ShakeOut on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:17 AM.

To date, eleven earthquakes have been confirmed in South Carolina this year. Our state experiences approximately 10 to 20 earthquakes a year according to geologists with the College of Charleston. On August 31, 1886, one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded along the eastern seaboard occurred just outside of Charleston. According to a study commissioned by the S.C. Emergency Management Division, an earthquake of similar size would cause severe property damage, economic loss and possible loss of life if it happened today.

The Great Southeast ShakeOut – More than 238,000 people in South Carolina have registered for the Great Southeast ShakeOut Earthquake Drill that will take place on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 1.7 million people worldwide at 10:17 AM on Thursday will practice how to Drop, Cover and Hold On in the event of an earthquake.

Registration on the Southeast ShakeOut web site is important part of this event. To register go to [www.shakeout.org/southeast](http://www.shakeout.org/southeast). Be sure to include the total number of people taking part in the drill.

For more information on earthquakes, visit these resources:

South Carolina Emergency Management Division - <http://www.scemd.org>

S.C. Earthquake Education & Preparedness Program – <http://scearthquakes.cofc.edu/>

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