



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2012 #12-34

For further information, contact:
Barbara Morgan
Emergency Social Services Director
Tel: 604-467-7301
Email: bmorgan@mapleridge.ca

District to Participate in The Great British Columbia ShakeOut October 18

Maple Ridge, BC: On Thursday, October 18 at 10:18 am District staff will join millions of people around the world as part of an earthquake awareness program called ShakeOut. This is an annual event held the third Thursday of October and is growing into a worldwide event for countries that are on active earthquake fault lines.

“The exercise is pretty straightforward. The goal is to teach everyone to ‘Drop, Cover and Hold On’ during an earthquake. We’re using this opportunity to share the latest information on the best techniques to protect your family, home and workplace. Simple things like looking around your bedroom, office and other places where you spend time to see if there may be potential hazards from falling items,” said Mayor Ernie Daykin. “As part of this year’s ShakeOut program in Maple Ridge, I’m enlisting the help of the local business community to help us all put together a 72 hour survival kit,” he added.

“Mayor Daykin has asked four local hardware and home improvement stores in our community to help educate the public on how easy it is to assemble emergency supplies. Families need to be self sufficient for a minimum of 72 Hours,’ said Barbara Morgan, Emergency Social Services Director, for the District of Maple Ridge. She continued, “Beginning October 9, 2012, staff and management of Haney Builders’ Supplies, Home Hardware, RONA Home Centre and Canadian Tire will each have a display of the elements for a home survival kit that you can purchase at their stores. The intent is to show everyone that everything that you need for your family’s survival kit is readily available locally.”

Ms. Morgan will provide each of the stores with copies of ShakeOut posters and the information that is available on the District website at mapleridge.ca under the ‘Emergency Services’ tab. Stores will assemble a survival kit from the goods they have available at their stores. Mayor Daykin, a former

hardware store owner himself, will stop by after Thanksgiving to check out each of the displays. Photos will be posted on the District's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/yourmapleridge.

The District encourages all businesses to participate in this event. It's easy to register on the ShakeOut BC website: www.shakeoutbc.ca. The website is filled with great information and links to help organize your participation at home and in the workplace.

The critical thing to do in an earthquake is to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Here's a breakdown of the three steps for the exercise:

- 1) Drop, Cover, and Hold On: 'Drop' to the ground, take 'Cover' under a table or desk and 'Hold On' to it as if a major earthquake were happening. Remain in this position for at least 60 seconds. Practice now so you and your family and friends will know what they need to do to protect themselves during an actual earthquake!
- 2) While still under the table, or wherever you are, look around and imagine what would happen during a major earthquake. What could fall on you or others? What could become damaged? What would life be like after?
- 3) Finally, practice what you will do after the shaking stops. Do you have a communications plan for your family? Do you have a 'Grab and Go' bag at the office and an Emergency Kit at home?

District staff will participate in the drill and invite citizens who will be at Municipal Hall that day to participate in the exercise. A practice building evacuation with supervision from the Maple Ridge Fire Department will also take place. We know that citizens will be depending on District staff as part of the recovery from any natural disaster, and this drill is just one part of a detailed Emergency Plan that is in place.

The District thanks the staff and management of:

- Haney Builders' Supplies located at 22740 Dewdney Trunk Road
- Home Hardware located at 11768 223 Street
- RONA Home Centre located at 21213 Lougheed Highway
- Canadian Tire located at 11969 200 Street

for their assistance to spread the word about Emergency Preparedness.

The following links will help you participate in this event and to learn more about Emergency preparedness:

- District of Maple Ridge: www.mapleridge.ca
- The Great British Columbia ShakeOut: www.shakeoutbc.ca
- Emergency Management BC: www.pep.bc.ca
- Government of Canada – Get Prepared: www.getprepared.gc.ca

