

Lance Cpl. Nathan Maysonet
Combat Center to conduct Earthquake Drill
20201009

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS,
Calif. – The Combat Center will conduct an earthquake drill Oct. 15, 2020.

As a part of the Department of Defense Emergency Management program, DOD installations worldwide will establish a policy, assign responsibilities, and provides procedures for conducting EM activities.

The California Shake-out Exercise is an annual state run earthquake preparedness exercise that educates the public about the importance of taking immediate action in case of an earthquake.

Earthquakes are usually caused when rock underground suddenly breaks along a fault. This sudden release of energy causes the seismic waves that make the ground shake. Although earthquakes are often known to occur in the West Coast, the natural disaster can happen at any time anywhere in the U.S.

According to the Combat Center Bulletin 3440 the end state of the exercise is to maintain mission readiness while staying prepared for any natural disasters and emergency action plans.

The first step you should take to be prepared for an earthquake is to register with Marine Corps Enterprise Mass Notification System or local emergency alert systems to receive emergency alerts through your phone or email.

It is important to have an evacuation and communication plan for the workplace as well as at home. Most importantly, take the time to prepare by building an emergency kit that includes sturdy shoes, a flashlight and some water.

According to Ready.gov, if there is an earthquake, stop what you are doing and drop to the ground, take cover under a table or a sturdy piece of furniture and hold on until the shaking stops. Make sure to stay clear of any windows, unstable furniture or anything that could possibly fall.

Once the shaking has stopped check yourself and others for injuries, then follow your command's protocol for personnel accountability. Look for and extinguish small fires, as this tends to be the most common hazard after an earthquake.

Ensure you stay tuned to the radio and emergency alert system for further information and instructions. Expect an aftershock, which can happen days after the initial earthquake. If an aftershock happens, drop, cover, and hold on.

If a severe enough earthquake occurs in a populated area, it may cause death, injuries and extensive property damage. It is important to be prepared and always plan ahead.

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For more information on National Preparedness Month, or on how to prepare for an earthquake, visit ready.marines.mil.