



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Department of Emergency Management
1011 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Division of Emergency Communications
Phone: (415) 558-3800 Fax: (415) 558-3843

Division of Emergency Services
Phone: (415) 487-5000 Fax: (415) 487-5043



Anne Kronenberg
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2013

Contact: Francis Zamora, Department of Emergency Management, 415-760-8735
Gentle Blythe, San Francisco Unified School District, 415-241-6565

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

ShakeOut. Don't Freak Out.

*Supervisor Katy Tang and Sunset Elementary School Students
Keep Cool in Statewide Earthquake Drill*

San Francisco, CA – Drop! Cover! Hold on! At 10:17 a.m., on the twenty fourth anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake, Sunset Elementary School students joined more than 9.3 million Californians in the Fifth Annual Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill.

The “earthquake” was initiated on the school’s public address system by Principal Sophie Lee. At that moment kindergartners through fifth graders dropped underneath desks, covered their heads, and held on. Once the “shaking” stopped the students practiced evacuating the school and were met outside by San Francisco firefighters, police officers, and city officials.

“The safest thing to do during an earthquake is to drop, cover, and hold on,” said Supervisor Katy Tang. “Knowing what to do before an earthquake will help you keep yourself, your family, and your neighbors safe when the earth starts shaking.”

The Great California ShakeOut is California’s annual state-wide drop, cover, and hold on drill. The purpose of the ShakeOut drill is practice and preparation: knowing what to do before, during, and

after an earthquake and preparing our homes, workplaces, and schools for any type of an emergency. City officials and San Francisco Unified School District students practice together every year. This year more San Franciscans participated in ShakeOut than in any previous year. More than 352,000 people practiced earthquake safety which was an increase of approximately 32,000 from last year.

“Our partnership with the school district not only prepares our children but it makes our communities more resilient,” said San Francisco Department of Emergency Management Executive Director Anne Kronenberg. “By teaching kids what to do during an earthquake they can go home and be the preparedness experts for their families.”

San Francisco plans and prepares for all emergencies including a catastrophic earthquake. Since 2004, San Francisco has conducted more than 100 disaster exercises. This year, San Francisco conducted a full scale exercise simulating a catastrophic earthquake on the San Andreas Fault which featured a community-led disaster feeding operation which fed more than 4,000 people.

For more information on how to prepare for the next earthquake or any disaster visit www.sf72.org.

###