

Highland City and Library ShakeOut Drill 2012 Report

Kellie Johnson

As the drill coordinator for Highland City and Library I emailed an information sheet titled *The Great Utah ShakeOut* (attached) to the entire staff to review giving up to date information on the best way to Drop, Cover, and Hold On. My goal for the drill was to give everyone basic information or tips, things to think about for their safety both at the office and at home, and make the event an enjoyable experience. The drill would then follow a level one protocol of making people aware of safety procedures and convincing people to crawl under their desks.

Shortly before the event we began advertising awareness of the drill through an announcement in the city newsletter (attached), bookmarks (attached), a poster for an earthquake themed Family Storytime (attached), as well as official posters throughout the building, pamphlets available at the city desk, and an earthquake book and video display in the library. I was happy to note that many patrons had heard about the drill and the kids were all versed on earthquake drills in school.

On the day of the event I had to cross from the library and trust their participation to the city side with a small bullhorn siren and convince the confused looking staff to participate. Most seemed game and some did comply with the drill. I was able to get a photograph of City Recorder Gina Peterson (left) participating and Library Assistant Deborah Olsen (right) demonstrating her technique of taking cover during the drill.



After the all clear was sounded everyone got a sherbet stick or what I referred to as ShakeOut candy to thank them for their participation including one young patron who was at the library for regular story-time. As a follow-up I also sent out an Aftershock email to remind participants about where they were relative to the rest of their families during the drill and promoted texting during emergencies versus tying up phone lines. All in all I believe our drill was a success as to the awareness level I was trying to create.

Lessons Learned:

1. While earthquake awareness was the ultimate goal of this year's drill full cooperation on the part of city employees will be necessary to have any sort of proper drill which will include building evacuation and incident evaluation.
2. There needs to be more awareness as to emergency procedures for our building.
3. Attention should be given to securing office furniture in the actual event of an earthquake.

It has been suggested by the library Director, Kent Slade that in 2013 there be an extension to the drill to include an evacuation of the building which I am willing to do. I would also like to include scenarios giving participants certain duties during the drill as well as having some sort of evaluation afterward. My only concern is in getting the full cooperation of the staff involved as well as elected officials.

Emergency Planning:

In the months preparing for The Great Utah ShakeOut I began working on an emergency plan for the Highland City Library as the library did not have any such plan. My goal was to create a document that would cover basic procedures for any kind of emergency from leaks to fires to criminal attacks. As a guideline I used a sample plan found on the Internet prepared by Jim Smith for the Alabama Public Library Service in March 2009.

Our Highland Emergency Plan will be reviewed periodically to update and/or add information. This plan will be made available to all Highland Library staff via email and printed materials via the Staff Manual.

In addition to this plan an emergency pocket planner was also created using a template provided by Randy Silverman preservation librarian at the University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library. The pocket planner will be available to staff via email and printed for both the Director and Assistant Librarian. Some of the emergency contact information on the pocket planner is also included in the emergency plan.

The Great Utah Shake Out

<http://shakeout.org/utah/>



On Tuesday **April 17th at 10:15 am** Highland City along with the entire state of Utah will experience a 7.0 magnitude earthquake drill. Will you be ready for the next one? Practice with us and learn to be prepared. Practice **DROP**, **COVER**, and **HOLD ON** for at least **one minute**.

Earthquake What to Do:

1. **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!).
2. Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table.
3. **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

If there is no furniture nearby, you can still reduce the chance of injury from falling objects by getting down next to an **interior wall** and covering your head and neck with your arms. If you are in bed cover your head with a **pillow**. If you are outside stay low and try to **avoid areas around** buildings, power lines, or other objects that may fall on you. And if you are in a car stay put.

Earthquake What Not to Do:

1. Do not run outside or to other rooms.
2. Do not stand in doorways.

What to do during the drill:

You have **one whole minute** so from your vantage point take a peek at what around you may be falling if this was a real earthquake. Secure these items for when a real earthquake hits.

In the office: computer monitors, ceiling lights, cabinets, bookcases, filing cabinets, etc.

At home: china cabinets, TVs, entertainment centers, dressers, etc.

Also think about what you need to do **after the earthquake:** Who is in charge?; safety of clearing the building and accounting for persons; offering aid to injured persons; Are you prepared at home?

Links:

Utah: Preparedness Now video: <http://youtu.be/OXIM4Nf3gZk>

Information and learning games: <http://www.dropcoverholdon.org/>

Provo Fault Line: http://www.shakeout.org/utah/downloads/scenarios/Provo_M72.pdf

Comic Relief: Sheldon conducts a tri-monthly emergency drill to prepare for a potential apocalypse <http://youtu.be/yynyGS5VhOmI>.

Wording Prepared for City Newsletter:

On Tuesday **April 17th** at **10:15 am** Highland City along with the entire state of Utah will experience a 7.0 magnitude **earthquake drill**. Will you be ready for the next one? Practice at home or work and learn to be prepared. Practice **DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON** for at least **one minute**.

If you find yourself inside during the drill find a sturdy piece of furniture to crouch under or interior wall to kneel down by and cover your head. If you are outside get away from buildings or power lines that may fall on you and get low to the ground to prevent yourself from falling too. Find out more at <http://shakeout.org/utah/>.



<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

**April 17th 2012 @ 10:15 am
Utah Will Experience A
7.0 Magnitude Earthquake Drill.
Are You Prepared?**



<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

**April 17th 2012 @ 10:15 am
Utah Will Experience A
7.0 Magnitude Earthquake Drill.
Are You Prepared?**



<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

**April 17th 2012 @ 10:15 am
Utah Will Experience A
7.0 Magnitude Earthquake Drill.
Are You Prepared?**



<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

**April 17th 2012 @ 10:15 am
Utah Will Experience A
7.0 Magnitude Earthquake Drill.
Are You Prepared?**



<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

**April 17th 2012 @ 10:15 am
Utah Will Experience A
7.0 Magnitude Earthquake Drill.
Are You Prepared?**



<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

**April 17th 2012 @ 10:15 am
Utah Will Experience A
7.0 Magnitude Earthquake Drill.
Are You Prepared?**

**Earthquake!
Family
Storytime**

**April
18th
5:00 pm**

**Come watch local
teens put on a fun
and informative
puppet show!
Food and fun.
Bring the family!**

**Join Us
for the Largest
Earthquake Drill
in Utah
History.**

The Great
Utah
**Shake
Out**

shakeout.org/utah



@ your library!

Highland City Library 5400 W. Civic Center Dr., Highland UT

Family Storytime Earthquake Puppet Show by Michelle DeKorver:

On Wednesday, March 18th the Highland City Library held an Earthquake Family Storytime as part of the 2012 Great Utah Shakeout. Approximately 30 people attended and participated. Each person, upon entering the room, was given a noise maker such as maracas rhythm sticks, or hand chimes.

When seated, participants were treated to an original puppet show performed by local teens with storybook characters such as the Big Bad Wolf, one of the Three Little Pigs, Hansel and Gretel, and the Witch. Every time an “earthquake” was simulated, the participants were encouraged to make a lot of noise with their shakers and stomp their feet.

The play taught what to do in several different earthquake locations, such as in the kitchen, in the bedroom, or outside. It also discussed what to do after an earthquake and what to put into emergency preparedness kits. At the end of the puppet show one child was heard to exclaim "Again, again!"

Afterwards, a typical 72 hour kit snack of granola bars, bottled water, and fruit snacks were given out. Several handouts from www.shakeout.org/utah and <http://bereadyutah.gov> were available for attendees to take home, including Family Communication Plan cards, 72 hour checklists, and information on how to secure your home in preparation for a disaster. The program was a success, and the teens are looking forward to similar programs in the future.

