

## Board of County Commissioners

Stephen A. Wantz, *President*  
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Richard S. Rothschild  
Doug Howard



## Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978  
fax 410-386-2485  
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Doug Brown  
410-386-2296

### **“Great ShakeOut” Earthquake Drill to Occur Tomorrow (10/20) All of Carroll County Encouraged to Participate and Practice Earthquake Preparedness**

**Westminster, MD** (October 19, 2016) — Earthquakes can and do happen in Maryland and in Carroll County which is why Carroll County Emergency Management is asking residents to register and take part in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut tomorrow. By participating in this nationwide drill, participants will learn proper earthquake preparedness and safety techniques. Held every year in October, the ShakeOut is set for Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 10:20 a.m.

Many people on the east coast of the United States may not be used to earthquakes and may not know the appropriate safety protocols. In 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred in Virginia was felt in areas of Maryland and some residents were not aware of what actions to take. A 2.2 magnitude earthquake also occurred at night in Anne Arundel County, Maryland last year.

“Although earthquakes are not common in our area, they have affected Carroll County in the past,” noted Board of County Commissioners President Stephen Wantz. “Practicing what to do if an earthquake happens is an important step that can help keep residents safer if one does occur.”

The ShakeOut drill is free and open to the public. Individuals, families, schools, businesses, government agencies, and many other groups can all participate in tomorrow’s drill. Those wanting to participate are asked to register by visiting [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org). Thousands of Maryland residents have already registered for the 2016 drill.

During the self-led drill, participants practice how to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.” Endorsed by emergency officials and first responders, the safe response to an earthquake is to:

- Drop to the ground,
- Take Cover under a table or desk, and
- Hold On to it as if a major earthquake were happening.

For more information about emergency preparedness, please visit the Carroll County Emergency Management [webpage](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

NOTE TO MEDIA: For information about Maryland participants in the drill, please visit [www.shakeout.org/southeast](http://www.shakeout.org/southeast) and click on the Maryland icon on the map. Please contact participating organizations directly if you want to do a story about their participation. The Maryland Center for School Safety, Maryland State Fire Marshal, Maryland State Department of Education, and MEMA are coordinating efforts for the Great SouthEast ShakeOut.

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## CARROLL COUNTY

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact Christine C. Kay, The Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410.386.3800, 1.888.302.8978, MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email [mmorey@ccg.carr.org](mailto:mmorey@ccg.carr.org) as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.