

Faculty/Instructor Classroom Guide Cover Letter

Dear Faculty/Instructors,

The safety of our students, staff, and faculty is a key priority of Southern Utah University, and earthquakes are one of our region's significant safety threats. Whether we live in earthquake country or may one day visit an area where earthquakes are possible, we need to know how to protect ourselves during earthquakes. Many of our out-of-state and international students may have never experienced an earthquake and have had little to no earthquake preparedness education. Some of us may know what to do, but have not practiced how to protect ourselves since we were children.

Help us keep our students and community prepared and safe by encouraging participation in this year's *Great Utah ShakeOut* earthquake drill on April 19, 2018. Each year more than 25 million people participate in Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills worldwide, in K-12 schools, colleges, businesses, government agencies, other organizations, and households. Participants practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" and other aspects of their emergency plans.

Please request all your students and staff to participate in this year's Shakeout drill wherever they may be at drill time. Most drills will be held at 10:05 a.m. on April 19. This is when most people will participate, but you are welcome to shift the time to the beginning or end of your class.

To help, please see the attached instructional guide and 4-slide PowerPoint presentation. The presentation links to a 60-second "Drill Broadcast" narration with earthquake sound effects that you can play during your drill.

Thank You,

Department Chair

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill at Southern Utah University

Classroom Instruction Guide

Thank you for playing your important role in teaching or reminding our students how to be safe during major earthquakes. This may be the first time some of our students have ever participated in an earthquake drill, and it may be their only opportunity to practice what to do to protect themselves (“Drop, Cover, and Hold On”) before our next major earthquake.

Instructions:

1. Prior to the start of your drill, start the 4-slide PowerPoint and display the first slide, or read the following:

- Earthquakes are unpredictable and may happen where you live, work or travel.
- Most injuries in earthquakes are from falling or flying objects.
- Today we are joining millions of people worldwide who are practicing how to be safe during earthquakes

2. Advance to the second slide and read the content about protective actions during earthquakes:

a. Classroom or auditorium:

- **Drop** to the floor. Do not try to exit during shaking.
- **Cover** your head and neck with one hand and seek shelter under your desk or table as best as possible. If in an auditorium with no tables, take cover between the rows of chairs.
- **Hold on** to the leg of the desk/table with your other hand.

b. Laboratory or other room with no tables/shelter:

- Step back from the lab table.
- **Drop** to the floor on your knees next to a wall, away from glass and other hazards if possible.
- **Cover** your head and neck with your hands and arms.
- **Hold On** to something sturdy during the shaking

c. “Wait a Minute” after shaking stops. Then look around for hazards, including behind you, before getting up. Carefully exit the building if instructed.

3. Advance to the third slide and click the link to play the 60-second Drill Narration, or read this:

- This is an earthquake drill. Drop, Cover, and Hold on.
- **Drop** to the ground now, before the ground jerks strongly and throws you down
- Take **Cover** under something sturdy to protect yourself from objects being hurled across the room. Or stay low and protect yourself from flying objects with your hands and arms.
- **Hold On** to your shelter or hold your position until the shaking stops.

4. Once the narration is over and the students return to their seats, you can hold an optional brief discussion. Possible topics:

- a) If you were at home during an earthquake, what might fall on you? Can you move those items or secure them so they won't cause injury?
- b) Do you always keep your cell phone and computer charged? If you have a car, do you always keep the gas tank at least half full?
- c) How would you contact your family in case of an emergency? Do you have a plan for checking in with one another and responding to emails/texts/etc.?
- d) ATMs may be offline after a major earthquake. How long can you live on the money you have right now?
- e) Do you know what “check in” services and hotlines are available for your use through our school?

Learn more at <http://www.earthquakecountry.org>