Scott County Schools

Memo

TO: School Board Members

FROM: John I. Ferguson, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Ready Virginia Earthquake Drill

Scott County Public Schools is planning to participate in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut, a simultaneous earthquake drill planned for October 18, 2012, at 10:18 a.m. Virginia is one of four states that are participating in the Ready Virginia Earthquake Drill.

The schools are being asked to participate in the event to promote earthquake safety awareness. Additional information is attached.

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Attachment

Superintendent's Memo #237-12

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

September 7, 2012

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Ready Virginia Earthquake Drill

Virginia has joined four other states and the District of Columbia to form the Great SouthEast ShakeOut, a simultaneous earthquake drill planned for October 18, 2012, at 10:18 a.m. Information and registration about this event can be found at www.ShakeOut.org/southeast or at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's (VDEM) Web site at http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stay-informed/earthquake/great-southeast-shakeout.

Schools are encouraged to participate in this event to promote earthquake safety awareness. It is up to each school division to determine how they conduct the drill. To promote this event, VDEM has prepared the attached Ready Virginia flier. This flier, as well as additional graphics and other resources, can be found by clicking on the resource tab at www.ShakeOut.org/southeast.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Laura L. Southard, public outreach coordinator with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, at (804) 897-9732.

PIW/VJ/aam

Attachment:

a. Get Ready to Shake Out (Word)

Ready Virginia

Get Ready to ShakeOut!

Join thousands of people who will **DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON** in the first-ever *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* earthquake drill held simultaneously in Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

- **WHEN?** October 18, 2012, at 10:18 a.m.
- **WHERE?** Wherever you are – home, school, work or play
- **WHO?** Everyone who lives in the southeast states
- **WHY?** Practice what you should do if an earthquake strikes so you and your family will be better prepared
- **HOW?** Learn more and register yourself, your family, your school, your office, your organization for the ShakeOut drill at **www.shakeout.org/southeast**

Federal, state and local emergency management experts and preparedness organizations agree that **DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON** is what we in the U.S. should do to reduce injuries and deaths during earthquakes. Ready Virginia is promoting the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* as a great opportunity to practice how to protect ourselves.

- ✓ **DROP** to the ground (before the earthquake drops you)
- ✓ Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- ✓ **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops

If there isn't a table or desk near you, drop to the ground in an inside corner of the building, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms. Do not try to run to another room to get under a table. Earthquakes occur without warning and may be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. **DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON** IMMEDIATELY.

DO NOT RUN OUTSIDE! Trying to run in an earthquake is dangerous because the ground is moving and you can easily fall or be injured by falling bricks, glass and other building materials. In the U.S., you are much safer to stay inside and get under a table.