



Media Release

Wednesday 23 September 2015

Selwyn residents encouraged to sign up for Shakeout

Everyone needs to know the right action to take in an earthquake. At 9.15am on Thursday 15 October New Zealanders will have the chance to practice what they would do in a real earthquake as part of a national earthquake drill called Shakeout.

Shakeout was first held in 2012 and 1.3 million New Zealanders took part in the drill. The 2015 exercise will be the second time Shakeout has been held in New Zealand.

“Over 6,500 Selwyn children and residents have already sign up be part of Shakeout. We would like to encourage all Selwyn residents and business to be part of this important earthquake drill,” says Ryan O’Rourke, Selwyn District Council’s Emergency Management Officer.

Mr O’Rourke says that while noticeable earthquakes are being felt less often than in the months immediately following the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010 and 2011, it is still important for people and workplaces in Selwyn to practise their response in an earthquake so they can feel confident everyone knows what to do.

The advice from experts on what you should do in earthquake is simple:

- **DROP** down on your hands and knees. This position protects you from falling items but allows you to move if necessary
- **COVER** your head and neck (and your entire body if possible) under a sturdy table or desk (if it is no more than a few steps away from you). If there is no shelter nearby, get down near an interior wall (or next to low-lying furniture that won’t fall on you), and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.
- **HOLD** on to your shelter (or your position to protect your head and neck) until the shaking stops. Be prepared to move with your shelter if the shaking shifts it around.

If you are outside in an earthquake move a few steps away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and power lines, then drop, cover and hold. If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt on until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

To register yourself or your business to be part of Shakeout visit www.shakeout.govt.nz.

Local primary schools who have already registered to be part of Shakeout are: Burnham, Darfield, Greendale, Hororata, Leeston, Rolleston, Sheffield, Southbridge, Springston, Weedons and West Melton. Lincoln High School is also registered.

Ends

Photo attached: Ben Crequer (left) and Nick Couglan (right), groundsman at Lincoln University's Bert Sutcliffe Oval practice the drop, cover and hold earthquake drill.

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