



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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Before the Senate Veteran's and Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Testimony on *Earthquake drill administrative rules, "Triangle of Life"*  
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Prepared by Vicki S. McConnell, Oregon State Geologist  
March 21, 2013

Chair Boquist and Committee Members, thank you for considering the following information about earthquake drills. DOGAMI supports the **Drop, Cover and Hold** earthquake safety procedure recommended by Oregon Emergency Management, the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Geological Survey, and the American Red Cross.

- While the "Triangle of Life," is well intentioned; its prescribed actions are gleaned only from worst-case accounts from collapsed buildings outside of the United States. Because buildings in the United States are built to stricter codes and enforcement standards than those in other countries, including Mexico, and Turkey, total building collapses from earthquakes in the U.S. are rare.
- Structural analysis and behavioral studies confirm that the use of Drop, Cover and Hold reduces the likelihood of serious injury, since most earthquake injuries are a result of falling nonstructural elements (lighting fixtures, ceiling tiles, windows) and contents (appliances, shelves, office equipment). See for example the recommendations of the National Disaster Education Coalition:  
[http://www.disastereducation.org/library/public\\_2004/Earthquakes.pdf](http://www.disastereducation.org/library/public_2004/Earthquakes.pdf).
- We know that Oregon will experience future earthquakes. Ultimately, Oregon residents should evaluate the earthquake readiness of their homes and work places and take appropriate steps to reduce their risk from structural and nonstructural building components.

Please contact Vicki S. McConnell if you have further questions.  
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