



OFFICES OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENSE

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GHS/OCD Promotes Earthquake Preparedness Week

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) invite the community to participate in Earthquake Preparedness Week (EPW), August 2-8, 2021. To commemorate the week, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero will declare the week as EPW with a proclamation signing on Friday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m., via Zoom and can be watched on the Governor's Facebook page.

GHS/OCD's EPW is a chance to promote earthquake preparedness as an active collaboration among federal, territorial and local emergency management agencies, community leaders, and the public.

The EPW dates were chosen to commemorate the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Guam on August 8, 1993. EPW provides an excellent opportunity to highlight Guam's abilities to recognize, respond and recover from the threat earthquakes and tsunamis pose to our community.

EPW will also be used to encourage registration and participation in the upcoming, island-wide earthquake drill, the Great Guam ShakeOut scheduled for October 21, 2021 at 10:21 a.m. The ShakeOut drill encourages residents to practice their earthquake procedure, "Drop, Cover and Hold On" to promote earthquake safety:

- DROP where you are, onto your hands and knees. This position protects you from being knocked down and also allows you to stay low and crawl to shelter if nearby.
- COVER your head and neck with one arm and hand
 - If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter
 - If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows)
 - Stay on your knees, bend over to protect vital organs
- HOLD ON until the shaking stops
 - Under shelter: hold on to it with one hand; be ready to move with your shelter if it shifts
 - No shelter: hold on to your head and neck with both arms and hands

To register to participate in the Great Guam ShakeOut and for more information, visit <https://www.shakeout.org/guam/>.

Throughout the week of August 2-8 GHS/OCD will promote information through social media about how to build an emergency kit, how to make an emergency communication plan, what to do before, during and after an earthquake, and awareness information. Those interested in participating and finding more information throughout the weeks can follow Guam Homeland Security on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/>, follow @guamhomelandsecurity on Instagram and visit the GHS/OCD website at www.ghs.guam.gov.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to use EPW as a chance to open discussions with friends and family about earthquake preparedness by using the following resources:

- <https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes>
- <https://www.shakeout.org/guam/>
- <https://www.fema.gov/earthquake-safety-home>
- <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/earthquake>

For more information on EPW, contact GHS/OCD Tsunami Specialist, Denille Calvo at (671) 475-9600 or via email at denille.calvo@ghs.guam.gov.

For media inquiries, contact GHS/OCD Public Information Officer, Jenna Blas at (671) 478-0208 or via email at jenna.g.blas@ghs.guam.gov.

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