



Get Ready to *ShakeOut* Tomorrow at 10:20am

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Tomorrow morning, more than 780,000 British Columbians will “Drop! Cover! and Hold On!” at 10:20 a.m. for two minutes as they participate in the *Great British Columbia ShakeOut*. The annual province-wide drill is an opportunity to practise how to protect ourselves during an earthquake and increase awareness on the need for personal preparedness. To sign up online to participate, visit: www.ShakeOutBC.ca

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES:

ShakeOutBC Earthquake Drill in Council Chambers

The City of Victoria is proud to be participating in the seventh annual *ShakeOutBC* earthquake drill. On Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 10:20 a.m., staff will instruct visitors at City Hall to “Drop! Cover! and Hold On!”. Victoria City Council will participate in the earthquake drill during its Committee of the Whole meeting in Council Chambers. City Hall will not be evacuated.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Demonstration

Immediately following the drill, Emergency Management Victoria in partnership with InDro Robotics, will conduct an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) demonstration in Centennial Square to showcase the capabilities of this technology after a major earthquake. UAVs can assist with damage assessments, providing immediate situational awareness, locate lost or trapped individuals, perform structural analysis of damaged infrastructure, deliver emergency supplies, detect heat and chemicals, and capture images from inaccessible places.

City Council will view the UAV demonstration from Council Chambers, narrated by the City’s Emergency Program Coordinator and Fire Chief. The City is working with InDro Robotics to build custom UAVs for Victoria’s emergency response operations. By aligning the use of UAVs with traditional manned relief efforts, operations can be conducted faster, safer and more efficiently. Based on Salt Spring Island, InDro Robotics is the only company in Canada approved by Transport Canada as a compliant operator to fly commercially in restricted airspace.

The media is invited to film the UAV demonstration from Centennial Square and the rooftop of Centennial Square Parkade. The UAV live stream video will be available for viewing at www.indrorobotics.ca.

Rapid Damage Assessment Demonstration

In addition, Urban Search and Rescue Victoria (USAR Victoria) will conduct a rapid damage assessment demonstration of the exterior of City Hall, which will include designating the building as safe or unsafe through the use of placards.

Emergency Management BC Display

Emergency Management BC will have a display set up in the City Hall foyer to promote *ShakeOutBC* and share emergency preparedness information with the public.

“Drop! Cover! and Hold On!” means:

- **DROP** to the floor (before the earthquake drops you)
- Take **COVER** under a desk or sturdy piece of furniture and protect your head and torso, and
- **HOLD ON** to the piece of furniture until the shaking stops.

Victoria has a one in three probability of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years. It's not a matter of “if” a damaging earthquake will happen, but “when”. “Drop! Cover! and Hold On!” is the most appropriate action to reduce injury and death during an earthquake.

Emergency Management Victoria offers free emergency preparedness workshops to the community. The next workshop will take place on Thursday, October 20 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Cook Street Village Activity Centre at 380 Cook Street. For more information, visit: www.PrepareVictoria.ca.

NOTE: Timed with *ShakeOutBC*, the City will test its website’s emergency notification tomorrow from 10:20 a.m. – 4 p.m. at www.victoria.ca.

- 30 -

For More Information:

Tanya Patterson
Emergency Program Coordinator
Emergency Management Victoria
Office: 250.920.3355
Cellular: 250.888.3594