

MSLA Shakes It Up with Quake Drill

MySafe:LA helps Los Angeles school children prepare for the "Big One".

(October 18, 2012 -- Los Angeles) --MySafe:LA, the official public-education partner of the Los Angeles Fire Department, took part in the 2012 Great California Shakeout Drill with an event at Harvard Elementary School in Los Angeles.

The Shakeout encourages millions of Californians to "Drop, Cover, and Hold-On." At precisely 10:18 A.M. on October 18, 2012, more than nine million Californians did just that, and in so doing, became better prepared for the next earthquake.

At Harvard Elementary, MySafe:LA instructors presented 4th and 5th grade students with earthquake preparedness information, as well as a demonstration from a FEMA-certified Search and Rescue Dog and her LAFD Handler.

After the assembly, the students returned to their classrooms for the "Drop, Cover, and Hold-On" drill, and Los Angeles Firefighters fanned out to search the school for "trapped" students.

"This is a rare opportunity for LA City Firefighters to practice their rescue skills with children," said MySafe:LA Executive Officer David Barrett. "And the kids get a chance to interact with the firefighters and first responders while they learn what to do when disaster strikes."

A few of the kids were even given a video camera to make their own movies of the drill, which will be part of MySafe:LA's coverage of the drill.

This is the third year that MySafe:LA has participated in the Great California Shakeout Drill in schools throughout Los Angeles, in association with the LA Fire Department and the Southern California Earthquake Center.

This essential drill, which can be conducted in as little as 30 seconds, serves as a reminder that earthquakes can occur at any time in any place; and knowing what to do in a disaster can make all the difference when seconds matter.

MySafe:LA will conduct another Shakeout event at a to-be-determined elementary school in 2013.

For more information: go to shakeout.org

**MySafe:LA**

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