

ShakeAlert Talking Points

- On March 11, the USGS ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning system will be active and capable of delivering alerts directly to wireless devices in Oregon for the very first time.
- ShakeAlert was active in California as of October 2019 and will be active in Washington beginning in May 2021.
- ShakeAlert is a network of sensors that collects and shares real-time information about the magnitude, location and expected shaking from earthquakes on the West Coast to distribution partners who then deliver alerts via cell phones and the internet.
- ShakeAlert detects significant earthquakes quickly, so alerts can trigger automated actions, such as slowing a train, opening fire station doors, or sending an alert to cell phones and PA systems, just like a severe weather or AMBER alert.
- Mobile phone users can also download an app to receive alerts. The app currently available in Oregon is QuakeAlertUSA that uses data provided by USGS and ShakeAlert to send a text message to mobile devices.
- ShakeAlert does not predict when or where an earthquake will occur or how long it will last, but it could provide us with just enough time to DROP-COVER-HOLD ON.
- Because we want the public to be aware and prepared, not alarmed and re-traumatized by ShakeAlert messages, Disaster Management is working with PGA to spread the word about ShakeAlert while being mindful of our community's recent traumatic events.
- We will be sharing ShakeAlert information and resources as they are rolled out by USGS over the next year to help as many of our residents learn ways to become prepared for an earthquake.