



## District Administration Office

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## **Brookings-Harbor Voices PSA – Great Oregon Shakeout Earthquake Drill**

Hi, this is Sean Gallagher – Brookings Harbor School District 17C Superintendent here to everyone for their participation in the Great Oregon Shakeout Earthquake Drill last Thursday.

On October 20, 2016 at 10:20 AM, the school district participated with thousands of other Oregonians in an earthquake drill to build safety awareness of the potential of seismic activity in our area and to practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” during last weeks event.

Why was the “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drill important? A quick response to a seismic event simply saves lives. A quick response is also a result of strategic planning. Brookings Harbor School District is currently in the design and planning phase of seismic retrofits that will be installed into the old portion of Kalmiopsis Elementary School this upcoming summer as a result of a \$1.5 million grant sponsored by the State of Oregon and Business Oregon’s Infrastructure Finance Authority. Engineers have been inspecting the building, documenting the current structure and then applying engineering principles to establish planned retrofits ensuring the building remains standing long enough for people to evacuate after a seismic event occurs.

In the next few weeks, the general public, students, and staff will start to see some test holes being dug around the building by engineers to study the soil type, compaction levels, and type of soil materials that will influence the types of retrofits that will need to be constructed to protect the elementary building. During the spring, the public will start to see the staging of materials set aside for the retrofit since the timeline will be very short for the contractor once the school year is over and the next school year begins. Safety around materials staging areas, construction equipment, and other related items will be of the utmost importance. The district already apologizes to those normal summer programs that occur at the elementary school, since access to the building will not be available.

Many benefits of seismic retrofit projects are new structural improvements such as new siding, new roofs, new paint, and added energy efficiencies. Sometimes there are natural reductions of windows around load bearing pivot points of the building since windows are not the most structurally sound materials.

It is important that the community understands the seismic retrofit project this summer and the associated benefits. A seismic retrofit project will add to the lifespan of a building by around 50-60 years saving taxpayers millions of dollars in building maintenance and/or replacement costs. The district appreciates everyone’s patience as we all move forward with this exciting project. The district also has two other pending applications for both the high school and middle school with a strong likelihood that exists that both applications will be approved.

For more information on earthquake safety procedures, visit [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) . For updates on the seismic project, watch for future press releases. The Brookings Harbor School District is enthusiastic about this exciting seismic retrofit project knowing that safety is vitally important as we continue ensuring that Every Student Can succeed here at Brookings-Harbor School District.