Earthquake Actions for Stores and Retail Environments

If shopping during an earthquake

- When the ground starts shaking, immediately “Drop, Cover and Hold On” protecting your head and neck. To get away from heavy items on shelves, stay low and only crawl a short distance if cover is available.
- If there’s no cover nearby to protect you from falling objects, find the most accessible alternative for protection:
  - Use your shopping cart.
  - Take cover inside clothing racks.
  - In aisles with pallet racks (e.g. warehouse stores), take cover inside the racks.

Suggestions for retail managers

- Hold regular “Drop, Cover, Hold On” drills for staff. You can do this by taking part in the Great British Columbia ShakeOut every October. Register at www.shakeoutbc.ca.
- Encourage employees to prepare at home.
- Provide first aid and response training to staff.
- Contact your local emergency program for preparedness information.
- Organise a preparedness effort with neighbouring retailers.
- For more preparedness information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC.

Securing retail spaces

- Ensure areas throughout your store have been secured, for example:
  - Ensure display cases and shelves are anchored to wall studs.
  - Store heavy items on low shelves.
- Place emergency supplies (including first aid kits and printed emergency plans) in accessible spots. Make sure staff are aware of the locations.

Learn more about “Drop, Cover and Hold On” in a variety of situations: http://ow.ly/Ym0GO
For more information on ShakeOutBC and earthquake preparedness visit: www.shakeoutbc.ca