



GREAT WASHINGTON SHAKEOUT THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 10:17 A.M.

This year's International ShakeOut Day is October 17, when millions of people worldwide will participate in earthquake drills at work, school, or home! The Great Washington Shakeout aims to teach everyone what to do in an emergency. Please refer to www.shakeout.org to find ways to help your community by aiding those closest to you so that you can assist in being assured that your neighbors are all accounted for.

A CHALLENGE FOR YOUR AUXILIARY! You need your Auxiliary to step up and take on a challenge. Make several disaster preparedness packs *NOW* to ensure you have everything you need in an emergency. There is no planning for disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, fires, etc.) and they always seem to occur at the worst possible time. In our roles as an Auxiliary member, we can arrange a fun event where everyone contributes to putting emergency preparedness items together. Pack some bags with mini flashlights, bandages, energy bars, Ramen/Cup O' Noodles, water (check expiration dates regularly), and clean blankets if possible. Bag items would be similar to those from 911 baskets for first responders that you may have assembled. Can you recall the disaster that occurred in Spokane in 2023? In the aftermath of the devastating fire that left so many without anything, two auxiliary groups collected items for our brothers and sisters. We would have been able to assist those victims much more quickly if all those items had been already prepared by all Auxiliaries. Consider thinking outside the box instead of staying in your comfort zone. Please share your ideas, as you would for any of our programs. I would love to hear from you if you take the challenge. You can email me or share on Facebook with **#WaAmerica** by October 31st and include what you did to aid others in the event of an emergency for the Great Washington Shakeout and what you will continue to do. Your efforts will ensure that the VFW Auxiliary is known as a reliable source of assistance in our communities. Our willingness to help those in need during a disaster is a sign of patriotism, but we also understand that we have responsibilities to "we the people". Patriotism and Americanism can be spread throughout our communities when we work together.

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Americanism~Patriotic Instructor