



October 15, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lt. Stu Miller – KCSO/Public Information Officer

CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE AND KOOTENAI COUNTY OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN 'DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON' DURING GREAT IDAHO SHAKEOUT EVENT

Coeur d'Alene, ID – On October 15, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. Coeur d'Alene City and Kootenai County emergency responders, officials and agencies participated in the Great Idaho Shakeout and concurrently tested the various Emergency Alert/Notification Systems such as the NIXLE, HipLink and other community alert systems. During the exercise, we identified some areas of concern that we will work on to improve.

Several agencies, including the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management, Kootenai County Sheriff, Coeur d'Alene Fire Department, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Coeur d'Alene School District, Northern Lakes Fire District and Panhandle Health met at the Kootenai County Emergency Operations Center to test the ability to quickly inform the public in a coordinated public information effort during a large scale emergency.

Some of today's goals included promoting community signups to our emergency notification systems prior to emergencies, evaluating issues and limitations related to the systems and promoting disaster preparation, survival and recovery to our community.

According to the director of the Office of Emergency Management, Sandy VonBehren, "This was a great test of our emergency alert systems. Kootenai County is better prepared for a major event due to the participation of businesses, schools, governmental agencies and the general public."

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