STEPS IN PLANNING AN EARTHQUAKE DRILL

1.ALARM

During the Alarm stage those involved in the drill are alerted by a loud warning device, such as a bell or buzzer.

2.RESPONSE

During the response phase, everyone should move away from windows, glass and/or light fixtures and take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture or object. If there is no cover available, crouch and try to protect your head.

3.EVACUATION

After remaining in your respective "safe place" until the shaking has stopped, persons should then evacuate the building. The evacuation proceeds through predetermined safe routes and evacuees gather outside in a safe area.

4.ASSEMBLY

At the assembly point, the evacuees are grouped in order of classrooms, departments or floors (whichever is more convenient) to facilitate the roll-call process.

5.ROLL CALL

During the roll call, teachers, floor wardens, or other designated representatives determine if everyone is present. In the event of a real earthquake, a search and rescue team would be dispatched to look for missing persons.

6.EVALUATION

After the roll call, there should be an evaluation where the institution identifies "snags" or gaps in the drill to facilitate future improvement.

Portmore Municipal Council

Shop 82-85 Portmore Pines Plaza
Greater Portmore P.O
St. Catherine

Phone: 740-7440-2 / 740-0129 / 740-0895
Toll Free: 1-888-991-7211
Fax: 740-7521
E-mail: pmc@j2ltd.net

Portmore Municipal Council

ARE YOU READY FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?

ANSWERS TO YOUR MOST LIKELY QUESTIONS

EARTHQUAKE SIMULATION EXERCISE

Picture showing an earthquake simulation exercise.

The threat of Earthquakes is with us all the time! Earthquakes have no particular season and no one knows exactly when the next one will occur.

Therefore, it is important that we take the time to prepare ourselves NOW so that we will know what to do and how to respond when the next great shake takes place.

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) will be conducting an earthquake simulation exercise to test the effectiveness of the National Earthquake Response Plan and the personal plans of individuals, families and businesses within the boundary of the exercise.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What are the designated signals to commence the drill?

A. The signals that will be used to initiate the exercise are wailing sirens, whistles, and/or the internal alarm and intercom systems within buildings. The signals will sound for thirty (30) seconds during which or after, the evacuation of the buildings will commence.

Q. What is the aim and/or objective of the exercise?

A. The simulation will test the effectiveness of our national emergency and response systems and improve the quality of the National Earthquake Response Plan.

Q. Will persons be able to conduct their normal activities within the boundaries of the drill?

A. Persons will be expected to participate in the exercise. However, the ODPEM is working towards minimal disruption of normal business activities.

Q. How have persons in this community been prepared for the event?

A. Sensitization sessions have been conducted for:

- Businesses- especially those that operate in the boundaries of the drill
- Schools
- Several community- based organizations/ associations.

Q. How will businesses that have a large "walk in" clientele handle the situation?

A. All participating agencies are expected to develop their own internal procedures for dealing with clients during the event. The entire activity is not expected to exceed one (1) hour, therefore, minimal disruption is expected.

Q. Have open spaces been earmarked for the drill?

A. The ODPEM wants to keep the drill as "true-to-life" and real as possible. Therefore, businesses in the boundary of the drill will be asked to identify and utilize their own assembly points as they would in the event of an actual earthquake.

Q. Will there be observers on the day to evaluate the response and the over all success of the drill?

A. Observers will be on hand to assess the sequence of the evacuation process, the suitability of the assembly points and uphold the safety of the drill.

Q. On reaching the assembly points, how will one know that the exercise has ended?

A. An "End of Exercise" signal such as the blowing of a whistle will be used to indicate the end of the drill.