

## SCHOOL SAFETY PREPAREDNESS DRILL

No task is as important as creating a safe learning environment for our nation's children. School Safety should be the most important part in promoting a culture of disaster safety. In all major earthquakes that occurred in the recent past, the enormous loss of life in schools graphically demonstrates the vulnerability of schools and the children. We must learn lessons from these tragedies and make our schools a safer place for children, and practice drills to respond efficiently and effectively to calamity that we may encounter.

The **School Safety Preparedness Drill (SSPD)** is initiated to commemorate the Kangra Earthquake of 1905 which killed 19,727 people on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1905. This drill is aimed at ensuring the safety of our future generations and over 60 years of our developmental gains in terms of education. The School Safety Preparedness Drill is an earthquake drill based on scenario earthquake happening near enough to affect the school. All the students and staff of the schools will practice Drop, Cover and Hold on and then evacuate to a pre-decided safe location.

### When?

The School Safety Preparedness Drill will be held at **11-00 am on April 4th, 2017** (Tuesday)

### Why is it important to do a Drop, Cover, Hold On drill?

Just as with anything, to act quickly we must practice, practice and practice. In a big earthquake, there may be very little time to protect ourselves before strong shaking knocks us down or drops something on us. Most earthquakes have a sharp jolt a few seconds before the strong shaking, and we need to Drop, Cover and Hold-on immediately under sturdy table when we feel the jolt. By practicing we will act quickly, rather than waiting to see if the earthquake will be strong enough. If it is, it may be too late to protect yourself. Many survivors from the recent earthquakes told that they were saved from serious injury or death only because they got under sturdy furniture.

For further details, please access our website link - <http://www.geohaz.in/index.php?page=6>

