Rogue Community College will participate Jan. 26 in the Great Oregon ShakeOut, an earthquake preparedness training initiated by the state.

Students and staff throughout the RCC District, which covers Jackson and Josephine counties, will receive guidelines and training documents prior to the drill. The training will begin at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday with an announcement that will pose the question, “What would you do in an earthquake?”

Faculty, staff and students won’t be asked to get under their desks, which is recommended in the event of an actual quake, but will be asked to answer the question based on the guidelines they received in advance.

The recommendation is to “drop, cover and hold on.” Studies of injuries and deaths caused by earthquakes show individuals are more likely to be injured by falling or flying objects than from a building collapse, according to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which is promoting the event. Earthquake response guidelines include taking cover under a sturdy desk or table. The space provided by the table is likely to remain even if the building did collapse.

Southern Oregon sits near a large earthquake fault line, according to the OEM. The drill is designed to educate members of the public about how to get prepared for a large earthquake and how to protect themselves.

This is the first year of the Great Oregon ShakeOut. It is modeled on the Great Southern California ShakeOut, first held in 2008. It had 5.4 million participants in eight counties. For more information visit www.shakeout.org/Oregon.

All RCC learning sites will participate in the Great Oregon ShakeOut. RCC has campuses in Grants Pass, Medford and White City, and learning centers in downtown Grants Pass and the Illinois Valley.

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EDITORS: For more information about RCC’s event, contact Grant Lagorio, RCC director of Facilities and Operations, Jackson County, 541-245-7873, or Bart Van Syoc, RCC director of Facilities and Operations, Josephine County, 541-956-7162.