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Santa Cruz doesn't participate in earthquake preparedness plan

SACRAMENTO (AP) — More than two million people were expected to take part today in duck-and-cover drills throughout California as part of the officially designated "Earthquake Preparedness Month" of April, but Santa Cruz-County employees were not among them.

The governor's office and the state Office of Emergency Services, sponsors of the program, said about 250 separate quakerelated safety events were planned during April, including private and public education programs, school preparedness activities, and law enforcement and medical drills.

The OES said the events were intended to "promote earthquake preparedness statewide and motivate Californians to increase their safety and reduce property dam-

age during earthquakes."

The principal event of the month, the statewide duck-and-cover drill, was scheduled for 10:10 a.m. today. OES spokesman Tom Mullins said hundreds of school districts, cities, counties, federal agencies, businesses and community groups were expected to participate. The drill also was scheduled to be announced by at least 70 California radio stations.

"Instead of focusing on one event — we look at our preparedness efforts as ongoing and year round," said Nancy Gordon, Santa Cruz County's coordinator of emergency services.

Gordon said emergency coordinators in every county department regularly review disaster procedures with staff members.

"We've sort of had a lot of practice (of real disasters)," she said.

Among the other events scheduled during April are:

- A business, government and Red Cross disaster conference in San Francisco.
- A Red Cross mass care and communications drill in Mountain View.
- An emergency medical exercise in San Rafael
- An earthquake products fair in Signal Hill.
- A "Shake, Rattle and Roll" quake drill in Humboldt County.
- Earthquake safety training at the Skywalker Ranch in Nicasio.
- An earthquake preparedness seminar, "Living on the Fault Line" in Simi Valley.