Project Abstract

In order to promote improved earthquake awareness and preparedness the SCEC CEO program and the Earthquake Country Alliance (ECA) are in the process of creating three new standards-based educational resources. The "Take on the Quake" program aims to educate several target audiences about earthquake science and preparedness through interactive activities and experiences. The "Take on the Quake" program is ideal for use in many learning environments and contexts such as museums, scouting, and in parks. The program facilitator has a choice to present "Take on the Quake" as a 20-minute overview (Express), a one-hour workshop (Explore), or as a half-day program (Experience). The "Take on the Quake" program can be used any time of the year. The "ShakeOut Curriculum" is designed for use classroom settings during the weeks leading up to, and immediately following the ShakeOut drill. This program takes consideration the time and logistical constraints in school environments. Activities for the "ShakeOut Curriculum" are designed to be flexible and are not seguence-bound. Educators can select the activities they want to use in any order and the lesson length can be easily modified. The maximum time required for any one lesson is thirty minutes. "Take on the Quake" and the "ShakeOut Curriculum" are aligned with the ECA mission by fostering a culture of earthquake and tsunami readiness in California. The materials for these programs will be available on the ECA website. The Plate Tectonics Learning Kit is an expansion and reimagining of an activity created by Professor Larry Braile at Purdue University. At the core of the kit is the USGS Dynamic Planet Poster that is cut into pieces and used as a "puzzle" activity. While extremely effective as a learning tool educators have often commented on the difficulty of knowing where to make the cuts on the map to create the puzzle. SCEC CEO team members have created a simplified version of the map with the map on one side and the cut lines for the plates and the plate names on the back. This innovation allows the facilitator to use the activity out of the box. The full Plate Tectonics Learning Kit contains the poster and an array of learning tools that provide a cross-curricular learning experience. Additionally, several of the puzzle pieces are easily misplaced and SCEC has responded to this problem by providing templates for the most easily misplaced plates (e.g. Juan de Fuca) without having to purchase a new map.