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SunLine Transit Agency to participate in the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

(Thousand Palms, CA) October 15, 2014 • On Thursday, October 16th at 10:16 A.M. SunLine Transit Agency—a first responder for regional natural disasters and emergencies will be participating in the largest earthquake drill in the nation. A mock emergency announcement will be made to passengers, and if it is safe, buses will slow and pull over as they would in an actual earthquake once they receive instruction from SunLine dispatch. During the simulated Level 3 drill, SunLine fixed route operators and Paratransit SunDial operators will practice safety procedures that would be followed in the event of a major earthquake.

SunLine Transit Agency, the Coachella Valley's public transportation provider, will be conducting other simultaneous agency-wide earthquake preparedness activities at their headquarters in Thousand Palms and Indio facility including:

- SunLine will activate its Early Warning System

Earthquake early warning systems use earthquake science and the technology of monitoring systems to alert devices and people when shaking waves generated by an earthquake are expected to arrive at their location. The seconds to minutes of advance warning can allow people and systems to take actions to protect life and property from destructive shaking.

SunLine is one of the few organizations in the valley with an Early Warning System.

- SunLine will activate SunLine Alert Messaging (SAM) which will send mass text messages, emails and voice blasts to SunLine employees to test the SAM system acquired by SunLine in July of this year.
- Conducting a DROP, COVER and HOLD ON drill for their employees at all their facilities at 10:16 A.M.
- Distributing refresher awareness material to SunLine bus operators on the proper procedures to be taken if an earthquake strikes while they are on the road.

SunLine CEO/General Manager Lauren Skiver states, "Participating in readiness and emergency response activities is a vital part of SunLine's role in the Coachella Valley. As the operator of 100 plus vehicles, our agency can provide valuable resources to local and state communities should a disaster happen in our Valley or points beyond. As part of our core mission, SunLine is prepared to assist whenever needed".

More information about SunLine can be found at sunline.org. • Media inquiries contact Norma Stevens at 760-250-5366 or e-mail nstevens@sunline.org.

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SunLine Transit Agency is a joint powers authority formed in 1977 to operate the Coachella Valley's public transportation system. SunLine offers fixed route bus service and curb-to-curb paratransit for the mobility impaired. Its fixed route and paratransit vehicles travel more than 4 million miles per year, covering over 619 bus stops located throughout a 1,120 mile-service area, carrying approximately 4.82 million riders. SunLine Services Group regulates three taxi franchises who provide taxi services throughout the Valley. SunFuels alternative fueling station offers compressed natural gas and hydrogen for SunLine and the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To learn more, please visit sunline.org.