More earthquakes on the horizon?

LOS GATOS (UPI) — Geologists say the latest earthquake along the central California coast signals an increase in seismic activity on the nation's most famous fault.

The prediction came after the San Francisco Bay Area was jolted early Tuesday by a quake on the San Andreas fault measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale, which swayed skyscrapers, knocked goods off store shelves, shattered windows, caused rock slides, buckled some highways and apparently triggered the death of a young man who fell five stories.

"It certainly shows us the fault is becoming more active," said Andrew Michael of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park. "The stress is building up in the Earth and we are going to start getting large earthquakes."

The state Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento issued an advisory: "A slightly increased likelihood exists for continued seismic activity in the area. This activity could involve an earthquake as large as 6.2 magnitude although it's not probable that a quake of this size will occur."

Tuesday's quake was felt as a 10-second rolling motion with a sharp jolt at the end. Reports of ground motion came from as far as San Luis Obispo, 150 miles to the south, and Santa Rosa, 100 miles to the north.

The quake was blamed for the death of Matthew J. Bignall, 19, who plunged to his death from his fifth-story apartment window in Los Gatos.

"We can't tell what went through his mind, possibly instant panic," said police Sgt. Tom Mitchell. "The screen from the window has an indentation very like a person's head, so it looks like he dived through the window or fell through."

An aftershock struck 30 minutes later, measured at 4.5 by University of California-Berkeley seismologists. A second struck at 8:53 a.m. and was measured in Berkeley at 4.8. There also were three others greater than 2.0 in

the first 12 hours after the quake.

Officials warned residents to be prepared for aftershocks in the 2 to 3 range for the next several days.

Seismologists said the epicenter was near Lake Elsman, a small reservoir at the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains near the coast, 13 miles north-northeast of Santa Cruz and 15 miles southwest of San Jose, the heart of Silicon Valley.

The quake was felt north of the Golden Gate Bridge in Marin County, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Santa Clara Valley and the coastal area of Santa Cruz.

"I've lived in the Bay Area for the last 35 years, and I've never been so frightened by an earthquake," said Carolyn Anthony, 65, who lives in a seventh-floor apartment in San Francisco. "I would have been thrown to the floor if I hadn't been thrown against a wall instead."

Two people were hurt in Santa Clara County, one suffering a broken wrist in a fall and another a severed arm artery because of broken glass.

Highway crews were sent to clear rock slides in the Santa Cruz area, and the Southern Pacific Railroad temporarily halted trains to check for damage.

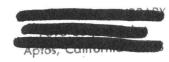
No power outages were reported.

The earthquake added a sobering dose of reality to a \$500,000 simulation designed to test state and federal disaster response plans that began a few hours later in Sacramento.

"What the real quake this morning points out to us is that earthquakes can happen at any time, just about anywhere in California and we need to be ready for them. That's exactly why we are conducting this drill here today," said Tom Mullins, spokesman for the state Office of Emergency Services.

Nearly 600 people — including Marilyn Quayle, wife of Vice President Dan Quayle — participated in the two-day drill, titled Response 89.

REFERENCE



WATSONVILLE REGISTER-Pajaronian August 9, 1989