



GARY REYES — MERCURY NEWS

**OAKLAND,
OCT. 17, 1989:**
Rescue crews work at the
collapsed double-deck
Cypress Street Viaduct, a
death trap for 42 people.

The Quake that Changed Us

A few shaky seconds 10 years ago today
altered the way many of us perceive our
world, including the very earth beneath us.



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JUDITH CALSON — MERCURY NEWS

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS, 10 YEARS LATER:

Jane Pettes holds the clock that stopped at 5:04 p.m. when the Loma Prieta quake destroyed her Redwood Estates home. She and her husband keep the reminder in storage in the basement of their new house.

BY PETE CAREY
Mercury News Staff Writer

It took just 15 seconds of 6.9-magnitude terror to spur California to unprecedented action in 1989.

The Loma Prieta earthquake — which 10 years ago today left a scattered mosaic of destruction from the main street of Santa Cruz to the bayfront homes of San Francisco's Marina district — was the earthquake that altered the state's consciousness of seismic safety.

Local bond issues were passed, money was found for freeway retrofits and new seismic safety laws were enacted with uncommon speed.

Today, that legacy continues to unfold, along with initiatives that followed the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles.

But it's an imperfect legacy.

Many schools statewide are still at risk a decade later. Hospitals are just beginning to confront their unsafe structures. There is no state-wide inventory of unsafe buildings. Parts of the Bay Area could be without water for weeks after a quake because some utilities have yet

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What We've Learned

Why did Loma Prieta's magnitude change to 6.9 from 7.1? This and other scientific developments from 10 years of quake science. **Pages 3C-4C**

Where We Live

The quake hit towns all around the bay, giving us heroes, a sense of community and the scare of our lives. How it felt and how we've recovered. **Pages 2C, 6C-9C**

Ready Or Not

Loma Prieta was neither the last nor the biggest quake that will hit the Bay Area. Are your homes, roadways, bridges and schools ready? **Pages 11C-15C**

More Online

For more coverage, including a forum to share your memories of the quake, go to: www.mercurycenter.com/local/loma_prieta/