

# 6.0 quake rocks LA area

## Woman killed; lots of damage

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A strong earthquake rocked Southern California today, killing one person, damaging buildings and homes in suburbs east of Los Angeles and triggering rockslides on mountain and canyon roads.

The 7:43 a.m. quake was estimated at 6.0 on the Richter scale by the California Institute of Technology. The epicenter was eight miles north of suburban Sierra Madre, beneath the rugged San

Gabriel Mountains.

A woman worker at Santa Anita racetrack in Arcadia was struck by a falling steel beam and she was dead on arrival at Arcadia Methodist Hospital, said spokeswoman Nancy Dolan.

Eleven people were treated for minor injuries at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, officials said.

Damage was reported to Pasadena City Hall and the historic Pasadena Playhouse, where a large chunk of its rear wall fell off. The 700-seat theater opened in 1925 and has been a training

ground for stars such as Dustin Hoffman, Gene Hackman, Robert Young and William Holden.

The wild swaying and jolting hurled as many as 100,000 books off shelves a block away at Vroman's bookstore, said Linda Fishback.

"Acoustic tiles started falling on my head, the lights went out and all these books came down," she said.

About 20 to 30 small aftershocks occurred within 90 minutes of the quake, said Egill Hauksson, director of the seismological laboratory at Caltech. Seven were larger than

2.0, including a magnitude 3.5 jolt at 8:37 a.m.

The chance of a damaging aftershock measuring 5 or more on the Richter scale was 25 percent for the remainder of Friday and 33 percent within the next week, said Lucy Jones.

Jones's estimate is based on her intensive study of historical patterns of aftershocks in California.

"It was quite a jolt, I'll tell you," said Pasadena City Clerk Marvell Herren. "We have broken glass and some cracks in the walls."

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Highrises swayed in Los Angeles and the temblor was felt 100 miles northwest in Santa Barbara and Kern counties, and south to the Mexican border.

The greatest damage appeared confined to the San Gabriel Mountain foothill communities 10 to 20 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles. The mountain range lies north and east of the Los Angeles basin.

Scientists suspect Friday's quake occurred on the Sierra Madre Fault, which runs along the base of the San Gabriel Mountains from Upland to San Fernando, almost 50 miles.

They said that fault has not produced a sizeable earthquake in the past 10,000 years.

Rockslides occurred on Angeles Crest Highway in the mountains and in Soledad Canyon, but traffic still got through, the Highway Patrol said.

Store windows crashed down in Pasadena and part of the facade of a four-story brick apartment building fell onto Colorado Boulevard. Police roped off the building. There did not appear to be injuries there.

The state Office of Emergency Services activated emergency operations centers in Los Angeles and Ontario to take damage reports.

The quake was the strongest in Southern California since the Superstition Hills earthquakes of Nov. 23 and 24, 1987. They measured 6.2 and 6.6 on the Richter scale and were centered in Imperial County east of San Diego.

It was the most strongly felt quake in the Los Angeles area since the Oct. 1, 1987, Whittier Narrows quake. That shaker measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, killed eight people, and caused extensive damage to cities southeast of Los Angeles.

The deadly Feb. 9, 1971, San Fernando earthquake measured 6.4 and killed about five dozen people in the Los Angeles area.

Caltech scientists fanned out into the San Gabriel Mountains carrying devices that radio precise positions on the ground to orbiting satellites of the Global Positioning System. That will help them determine precisely how the Earth's surface was deformed during the earthquake, said Lucy Jones, seismologist at the U.S. Geological Survey.

A three-story glass atrium shattered at the Pasadena Plaza Mall.

In the center of the San Gabriel Valley, the 18th century San Gabriel Mission, its old brick walls and bell tower still braced and unrepaired from 1987 quake damage, withstood today's shake with no more apparent damage.

"We got under the table, but as far as I can see there was no damage," said E.C. "Pete" Reckard, a retired minister and educator in Claremont.