

5.2

quake hits

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SANTA CRUZ — Liquor bottles trembled but did not shatter and people ran whooping onto Pacific Avenue on Monday night, when a moderate earthquake hit the Bay Area.

The 10 p.m. quake preliminarily measured at a 5.2 magnitude. The U.S. Geological Service said the quake was centered three miles southwest of Gilroy, outside San Jose. Phone service was knocked out in parts of San Jose. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

At the downtown Clouds bar, the wall-to-wall liquor
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bottles survived without a scratch. Bartender Jeff Pappas said he was relieved all the glass was intact. "I was at the Palomar after (the 1989 Loma Prieta quake) and it was like a bomb blew up the bar."

Bartender Jessica Morsell said the scene was more "festive than destructive" at the crimson-tinted Red Room, a smoky lounge bar favored by UC Santa Cruz students. Sitting on a bar stool, student Kris Holden watched liquor bottles and a heater sway with the earth's vibrations.

One of the patrons, Rodney Moore, was much too earthquake-jaded to be scared. He's been through a Los Angeles earthquake and the 1989 quake that damaged much of downtown Santa Cruz. He even managed to laugh when people all over the street started hollering out their guesses about the quake's power. "Someone shouted 5.7, and someone else said 6.1."

As Boulder Creek firefighters watched their entire building shimmy back and forth, a dispatcher reported that a power pole had fallen and sparked a small fire on Tucker Road near Highway 17, just outside Scotts Valley, apparently because of the quake, but no further information was available. The falling pole did not affect Highway 17 traffic.

The quake shook the rafters at the Compaq Center during the San Jose Sharks' playoff game Monday night against the Colorado Avalanche — but it was not enough to interrupt the game.

In San Francisco, the quake shook Pacific Bell Park during a game between the Atlanta Braves and San Francisco Giants, but play was not interrupted.

Sentinel wire services contributed to this report.

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