

UCSC campus' calm belied quake's extensive damage

EARTHQUAKE '89 - Santa Cruz County

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SANTA CRUZ — Within an hour after a 7.1 earthquake destroyed much of downtown Santa Cruz, students just a few miles away at UC Santa Cruz were gathered on a hillside near Porter College listening to a rock band give an impromptu performance.

The contrast between the chaos downtown and the comparative calm at UCSC was striking.

But that was on the outside. Inside some of the campus buildings, the quake had wrought havoc. More than \$13 million worth, according to Chancellor Robert Stevens.

"That first night obviously was a frightening experience for everybody," Stevens said.

"I had students working on the fourth floor here who had to run and find tables to dive under. They said they heard books flying everywhere," said Susan Rusev, stacks supervisor at UCSC's McHenry Library.

No one was injured as books crashed to the floor throughout the library.

"During the first two days of cleanup on the third floor we picked up 9,200 volumes, and that's just on one section of the third floor," Rusev said. "I'd say about 60,000-plus volumes fell off shelves here."

As big a project as picking up the books might be, most of the quake costs to the UC will come from structural repairs. Stevens has estimated the campus suffered about \$8 million in structural damage to the library, the Natural Sciences 2 building, the fourth floor of the Science Library and Cardiff House, which houses the UCSC Women's Center.

Workers have been shoring up both the Natural

Sciences and Thimann Laboratory buildings for the past week. The buildings are expected to open sometime next week.

There was also about \$5 million in property damage to ceilings, floors, walls, windows, sinks, toilets, lights and gas and water systems, according to Stevens.

UC President David Gardner visited the campus Friday afternoon for a quick tour of the damage and to discuss an additional \$6 million in upgrades to the campus that Stevens wants funded.

Stevens is asking Gardner to fight for funds that would allow UCSC to function on its own in case of emergency. He wants a communications system that does not rely on telephone companies to reach places off campus, and he wants to be able to communicate across campus more efficiently.

"I had to rely on the proctors' walkie-talkies for communication," Stevens said. "As you discover in any disaster, information is absolutely vital."

"We could have had lots of injuries and could easily have been cut off from the two hospitals," Stevens said. "We have to be able to get helicopters in and set up a field hospital if we need to."

Stevens is also asking for more fire protection and some heavy lifting equipment for rescue efforts. "A sufficiently heavy quake is clearly capable of knocking the strongest building over," Stevens said.

For the most part, though, Stevens was pleased with the way the campus community responded to the crisis. Most of the cleanup has been done, classes have resumed and Stevens said he was even going to take a day off over the weekend.

"We were lucky," Stevens said.