

# Bigger earthquake possible

## Temblor precedes big drill

McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO — Tuesday's earthquake might have been a lot worse.

How much worse was vividly demonstrated by a massive, two-day earthquake preparedness exercise that began Tuesday in the state Office of Emergency Services complex in Sacramento.

Even as the San Francisco Bay Area was shaking off a 5.2 quake near the San Andreas and Sargent faults, an army of more than 400 state and federal workers were crammed into a large ramshackle building on Meadowview Road next to the OES headquarters to play out a scenario of a quake on the Hayward fault measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale.

Among the participants in the exercise, named Response 89, was Marilyn Quayle, wife of Vice President Dan Quayle.

The eerie coincidence of the temblor was compelling. It occurred on the day of the first major test of a state-federal government response to a simulated quake in the same region.

Richard Andrews, deputy director of OES, told The Associated Press: "The irony here is that we had a 'real world' earthquake in about the same area as our test."

Using scenarios drawn up by scientists and experts in all fields of transportation, engineering and human behavior and augmented by recent lessons learned at disasters in Mexico City and Armenia, the participants responded Tuesday and learned quickly what would be possible and what would not.



Lorraine Schumacher and nephew Jaben Melville clean up at Hallcrest Vineyards after quake.

## Expert recommends taking precautions

By MARK BERGSTROM  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — A series of sharp jolts near a usually quiet portion of the San Andreas Fault early Tuesday morning has prompted scientists to warn of the possibility of a quake up to 80 times stronger by the end of the week.

The state Office of Emergency Services has issued a warning for increased seismic activity along the fault in the Santa Cruz Mountains after a 5.2 earthquake and two 4.1 aftershocks Tuesday.

UCSC earthquake expert Dr. Karen McNally said the probability of a bigger earthquake's hitting the area is as high as 11 percent.

Little damage was reported in Santa Cruz County from the Tuesday earthquakes, but the main quake is believed responsible for a man's fall to his death from a window of a Los Gatos apartment complex.

McNally said Tuesday that the increased activity could lead to a temblor of as great as magnitude 7 in the next five days.

A magnitude 7 earthquake, she said, would be about 80 times stronger than the main earthquake that shook the area at about 1:13 a.m. Tuesday. By comparison, the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906 registered 8.2 and the Alaska quake of 1964, in which 114 people died, was an 8.5.

Other experts warned of an increased possibility of a quake in the range of 6 to 6.5 on the Richter scale. An increase of one Richter number indicates a tenfold jump in magnitude.

McNally offered the following advice to area residents:

"If people were shaken up last night, they might consider this to be a wake up call. It's time to get some (bottled) water and batteries and to take heavy pictures and things off the wall," McNally said.



Dr. Karen McNally  
Jolt might be 'wake-up call'

McNally, who studied under the famous seismologist, Dr. Charles Richter, for whom the earthquake-measurement scale is named, has gained worldwide prominence for her work in earthquake prediction. She is director of the Richter Lab at UCSC.

Only history will tell if Tuesday's morning's 5.2 quake was a main event or a foreshock of a greater quake to come.

"There is no way for scientists to tell," she said. But her study of earthquakes that occurred as far back as 1857 indicates that if Tuesday's quake were a foreshock it would be followed by a larger quake in about five days.

McNally said her instruments put the epicenter near Holy City in the Santa Cruz Mountains, close to the intersection of the San Andreas

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# Quake/ Los Gatos man dies

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and Sargent faults.

The epicenter was roughly in the same area as a 5.7 earthquake of June 27, 1988.

That section of the San Andreas Fault, she said, has been unusually quiet. Even in the great 1906 earthquake, there was little slippage to the north and virtually no slippage immediately south of that location.

That section, she said, has some "catching up" with more active areas of the fault.

Tuesday morning's quake, and the one in 1988, were "relatively unusual" events, McNally said. "They have been the only events of that size to occur on that section of the fault since 1906, if not longer," she said.

The section of the San Andreas Fault south of Hollister, she said, has produced a 5.2 magnitude quake on the average of once every 20 years.

A warning of increased seismic activity was issued after the 1988 earthquake, but only a couple of aftershocks followed.

The larger number of aftershocks

this time, McNally said, is consistent with the way a large foreshock behaves.

Even without the increased risk factors, the probability of a magnitude 7 quake on that section of the fault is relatively high — 20 percent in the next 30 years — McNally said.

The 911 switchboard lit up with 188 calls after the first quake Tuesday morning. Most reportedly were from scared residents wanting to know if, indeed, there had been an earthquake.

Of immediate concern was the condition of the Newell Creek Dam above Ben Lomond, but a check by firefighters and a city water inspector found the structure undamaged.

Burglar alarms were set off up and down the Pacific Garden Mall in Santa Cruz and elsewhere in the county, but there were only a few reports of actual damage.

Shirin Schumacher, an owner of the Hallcrest Vineyards on Felton-Empire Road, said about 50 bottles of wine were knocked off shelves. "Oh, boy, is there a lot of wine on

the floor," she said.

On the other side of the mountains, however, authorities speculated on how the earthquake might have led to the death of a 19-year-old man.

According to Los Gatos Police Sgt. Tom Mitchell, the body of Matthew James Bignall was found beneath a fifth-story bedroom window at an apartment complex after the first earthquake.

Mitchell said Bignall had recently moved into the apartment with a half-brother and that man's girlfriend. He said Bignall was from the East Coast and was recently discharged from the Navy.

Mitchell said the half-brother and girlfriend were shaken awake by the quake and soon heard sirens. When they looked out the window, they saw Bignall.

Mitchell said Bignall's waterbed was on a high frame under the window. Investigators, he said, found what appeared to be a bulge in the screen made by the man's head as it pushed the screen out the window.