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Lydia Tocol cleans up quake-caused mess at Mid-Town Market in Salinas

Quake cracks windows, spills food

SANTA CRUZ — Cracked walls and driveways, food in the aisles of some South County grocery stores, a number of broken windows and one reported broken leg were the major effects in Santa Cruz County of Monday morning's sharp earthquake.

"It was pretty hairy," Corralitos Market butcher Dave Peterson said of the quake, which was centered just east of Santa Cruz County along the Calaveras Fault.

The worst crack appears to have showed up in an apartment house at 695 30th Ave., in the Live Oak area, about four blocks from the beach.

Irene Wainio of Aptos, who

was visiting the apartment house when the quake occurred, said the crack is in the stucco exterior "clear around the house." She said the Live Oak Fire Department came out, examined the crack and concluded sections of the stucco would have to be removed to determine if there was any structural damage to the house.

Mrs. Wainio, whose mother lives in an upstairs apartment in the house, said she just moved to Santa Cruz County from Los Angeles.

"I think we should go back," she commented after the quake, which she admitted "scared us real bad."

A few cracks appeared on the interior walls of the Watsonville police station, but a spokeswoman there insisted they were "no big thing."

Cracked garage floors and driveways were fairly common in the county. One La Selva Beach woman said existing cracks in the concrete garage floor were "noticeably wider" after the quake, and that one which used to stop at the garage door now extended into the driveway.

The grocery store that may have been hit the worst was the Freedom Food Center on Freedom Boulevard, just north of Watsonville. Clerk Larry Wood said jars of baby food and pickles fell to the floor and smashed and there was food "in all the aisles."

Just up the street at an Albertson's store, bookkeeper Glenna Bell said only "a couple of jars of pickles and coffee" fell and broke, but that other packaged goods, like dog food, tumbled into the aisles.

At the Corralitos Market, which is virtually on the San Andreas Fault, another major earthquake fault, butcher Dave Peterson said only "a few spices and some boxes" fell.

At the north end of the county, Safeway clerk Bev Elrod said that in her Santa Cruz store "the baby food rattled, the wine bottles were all moving, but nothing fell."

Donna Racette-Wamsley, information officer for the sheriff's department, said the only damage phoned in to her office was "numerous broken windows" and some cracked fish tanks which sprung leaks.

The only known injury resulting from the quake was incurred by Ellen Day of Felton, who refractured a leg that had recently come out of a cast.

She said, "The floor started shaking and because my leg was weak I just fell over." She was taken by ambulance to Community Hospital in Santa Cruz, where the leg was put back in a cast.

Telephone service in the county was erratic for a while after the quake, but Santa Cruz phone company manager Lee Williams said that was because so many people ran to the telephone that all the circuits were tied up.

The earthquake generated more conversation than damage in Monterey County, according to police and fire officials.

No major damage or injuries were reported as a result of the mid-morning temblor, they said.

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company's spokesman reported temporary service interruptions in scattered areas, the largest being a brief power failure in the city of Marina. The spokesman added that the Marina outage could not definitely be linked to the earthquake.

A Pacific Telephone official said some customers were having difficulty making out-going calls immediately after the earthquake. The condition was compounded, she said, by a large volume of calls generated after the shaking subsided.

Police officials throughout the county said they received the usual spate of concerned telephone calls but had no reports of damage more severe than broken windows or merchandise falling off store shelves.

Fire rescue officials said there were no reports of injuries and no calls for medical assistance because of earthquake related accidents.

The Salinas Fire Department responded to one call of a residential gas leak apparently attributable to the earthquake.