

First Earthquake Of New Decade Hits SC County

The first earthquake of the new decade jolted Santa Cruz County at 5:11 p.m. Wednesday.

The temblor registered 3.6 on the Richter Magnitude Scale, according to Dr. Robert Uhrhammer of the California Seismology Station in Berkeley.

The quake appears to have been centered in the mountains near Corralitos, according to Uhrhammer.

The Seismology Station, he said, gets an idea of the distance over which a quake is felt from telephone reports. "We received few calls on this quake," he said.

A temblor of 3.6, he explained, can be expected to be felt over a radius of about 30 miles.

Whereas emergency agencies reported today receiving

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no calls of damage, Seacliff resident Emerson Owen told The Sentinel the quake appeared to open up an old septic tank under his carport. A front wheel on his car, he said, sank into the hole, which he estimated at 12 feet deep and three feet wide. (See photo page 38.)

A Fairmount Avenue resident of Santa Cruz reported that the quake split apart a beam on the ceiling of the residence.

County residents described the quake as more of a "boomer" than a shaker or roller.