

Damage mounting, Wormhoudt says

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11-5-89
SANTA CRUZ — The impact of the Loma Prieta quake is still being felt. And dozens of government agencies are scrambling to deal with the shambles.

"We're still getting damage because of the aftershocks," Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt told representatives of a variety of federal, state and local agencies who gathered at the county building. "We have buildings that are worse today than

they were yesterday."

Wormhoudt told those gathered that 21 buildings in the downtown area have been marked for demolition so far, up from last weekend's estimate that 15 buildings would have to go.

The building count was only one of many new pieces of information offered at the meeting. In other developments:

- Officials said \$31,000 worth of food stamps is being distributed daily in Santa Cruz County, and

said that figure is sure to increase as a result of a new ruling that will allow illegal aliens to get stamps without revealing their nationality.

- It was revealed that Border Patrol officers are dressing in plain clothes and driving unmarked cars in an effort not to frighten illegal aliens who might be living in shelters and tent cities in Watsonville.

- Watsonville Mayor Betty Murphy said she didn't know how many buildings will have to be torn down there, but said, "I think we're

in worse shape than (Santa Cruz)."

- Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said the agency has already received 5,715 applications for housing assistance in Santa Cruz County, in addition to 19,700 other applications throughout the northern California area.

- Congressman Leon Panetta said that he will try to get the \$500,000-limit on small-business loans increased, saying that the limit hasn't been raised in years.