

Earthquake - 1989 - City of Santa Cruz

**SPECIAL EDITION**

# Santa Cruz Sentinel

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## QUAKE AFTERMATH



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Unidentified woman was pulled out of Ford's Department Store shortly after the quake. Her leg was later amputated.

# Quake shatters county; at least six dead

By JOHN ROBINSON  
Sentinel staff writer

The terror of the quake was reflected on residents' faces even today as many camped outside their homes or huddled in fields in makeshift camps. Homes in one Watsonville neighborhood rested at crazy angles, many knocked off their foundations.

At least six people have died as the result of a 6.9 earthquake that shattered downtown Santa Cruz Tuesday afternoon and caused widespread destruction throughout the county.

The death toll may rise however as emergency crews continued to sift through the rubble of collapsed buildings in Santa Cruz and Watsonville today, and began digging through landslides in the mountain areas.

Damage is estimated at \$250 million to private property and \$100 million to public property throughout the county.

Downtown Santa Cruz lost between 12 and 20 buildings, according to county Supervisor Gary Patton today. At least 40 buildings are believed to have collapsed throughout the county.

The quake registered 6.9 and struck at 5:04 p.m., as many people were leaving work for the day. It was centered eight miles northeast of Santa Cruz on the San Andreas Fault. The terror of the quake was reflected on residents' faces even today as many camped outside their homes or huddled in fields in makeshift camps. Homes in one

## Crews still sifting through rubble

Watsonville neighborhood rested at crazy angles, many knocked off their foundations. One house looked like it had been smashed into the ground by a giant hammer.

Fires broke out throughout the county and the county was plunged into darkness as the power went out. Residents are also asking to conserve water.

Roads were cracked by the force of the quake and several bridges were closed. Highway 17 was closed as was Highway 1 when a highway overpass collapsed.

Three people are believed to have died in collapsed buildings on the Pacific Garden Mall when the quake roared through the downtown area Tuesday.

An unidentified woman was killed, and a second seriously hurt when a section of the roof collapsed at Ford's department store on mall.

The dead woman was dug out of the wreckage by passing volun-

teers who risked falling debris to find the body.

A second woman who was pulled from the building sustained a severe leg injury, which required amputation at the hospital.

An unidentified man was also killed by a falling brick wall at the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company at the north end of the Pacific Garden Mall. The coffee company shares a turn-of-the-century building with Bookshop Santa Cruz.

Crews were still working today to unearth the body of a second victim at the coffee company who is still believed to be buried under tons of bricks. Police said that the woman's identification was found in the rubble and that her motorcycle was still parked outside. Police dogs had indicated that a body was still in the building. Crews had to leave the building Wednesday morning as a second wall appeared to be ready to fall. They had dug

through the wreckage, passing brick out hand by hand through the night but were unable to reach the body. Police said that there is little chance anyone trapped in the building would be alive.

Police shut off the mall to the public today saying the area was unsafe. A woman also died in Watsonville when she was hit by falling bricks in front of the Bake-Rite Bakery on East Beach Street. The woman was airlifted to Fort Ord where she later died.

A Santa Cruz County man was killed when his Toyota pickup hit three horses on Highway 1 near the 41st Avenue exit shortly before midnight Tuesday.

The strange accident happened after six horses bolted from a pasture at Pogonip and ran in a mad dash all the way into Capitola.

Capitola Police Sgt. Herb Ross said that police tried to corner the horses in a parking lot behind the police station. The spooked horses however ran from the lot and onto the freeway before police could

block the onramps.

A passing truck hit the horses, instantly killing one as one of the horses went through the windshield into the car.

A fourth horse, a white sa was rearing and running next to the dead horse when it was chased down by an officer.

The horses belonged to Hawk, a ranger at Pogonip who were used to patrol the area. She said that she had checked the wa-ture fences Tuesday night but not find any holes.

Two people were also reported killed by heart attacks during the quake. One, an elderly man, died at a Santa Cruz nursing home. A man was felled by a heart attack at Longs Drugs on 41st Avenue Capitola. He later died at a local hospital.

More people may be dead in the county, emergency crew members said. State transportation officials said that several cars may be buried under a landslide on Highway 17 near the Laurel Curve. Crews were also going into the more remote mountain regions in search of victims.

### Inside

## Homes damaged in Watsonville

Falling debris from Tuesday's temblor killed one woman in downtown Watsonville and destroyed 40 to 50 homes, according to early figures. Part of Highway 1 was impassable near the River Street overpass. Page 5.

## KSCO is lifeline for county residents

Disk jockeys at KSCO-AM became a lifeline for worried county residents as KSCO, the only local radio station on the air in the quake's aftermath, broadcast essential information throughout the night. Page 4.

## World Series is postponed again

Game 3 of the World Series between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics was postponed today for the second consecutive day. A decision on the remainder of the Series was to be decided later. Page 12.

## Mercury News prints Sentinel

This edition of the Santa Cruz Sentinel was produced by Sentinel staff members and printed at the San Jose Mercury News.

During the earthquake the Sentinel lost its capability to print at its plant.