No injuries in 112.89 4.4 aftershock

From staff and wire reports

An aftershock to the devastating Oct. 17 earthquake jolted Northern California from San Francisco Bay to Watsonville late Wednesday but there were no immediate reports of serious damage.

The magnitude 4.4 aftershock hit at 9:50 p.m. and was centered slightly north of the epicenter of last month's magnitude 7.1 main shock, said Pat Jorgenson, spokeswoman for the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park.

"Awesome," said Santa Cruz County sheriff's dispatcher Kevin Fink. "Shook pretty good. We were sweating bullets for a few seconds."

San Francisco police said there was only very minor damage in the city's Marina district, which was devastated by the Oct. 17 temblor.

"We've had a couple of reports of minor stuff nothing major at this time, just bricks falling. People have been calling in sheer panic saying, "The big one is on the way." We try to console them and tell them it's an aftershock," said Officer Gordon Clark.

"It rattled pretty good at first and

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then kept on kind of rolling. You could feel the foundation swaying," said Ani LeRitz-Murphy of Watsonville.

"It's been the second longest one we've had since the big quake."

It was the 84th aftershock of magnitude 3.0 or greater and the 21st aftershock of 4.0 or greater since Oct. 17, according to USGS records. An aftershock measuring 3.7 occurred at 12:03 a.m. Wednesday.

The largest aftershock was magnitude 5.2 and hit 37 minutes after the main shock. The second-largest aftershock was magnitude 5.0 on

Oct. 19.

The Wednesday night aftershock rattled windows in the Watsonville area and created a rolling motion in downtown San Francisco.

"This is one of the biggest I've felt since I got here on the 19th," said Lt. Jeffrey Babineu at the National Guard Armory in Watsonville, which is housing some 100 people who lost their homes in the Oct. 17 quake.

"We heard a rumbling, then everything started rolling and the cars in the parking lot started jumping around," he said. "A few of the people in the shelter

screamed out, but then it stopped."

The Watsonville Police Department received about a dozen calls from people living in yellow-tagged houses who were worried that the aftershock might make their homes unsafe, Watsonville Police Lt. Michael Aluffi said.

Aluffi said that a red-tagged house at 358 East Lake Boulevard that had been damaged in the Oct. 17 quake collapsed a few minutes before Wednesday night's aftershock.

The aftershock rattled nerves and windows throughout Watsonville.