

Earthquakes RP p. 1

5.7 quake; no injuries

JAN 16 1993

GILROY (AP) — A moderate earthquake rattled a wide portion of Northern California late Friday night, fraying nerves but apparently causing no injury or serious damage.

The quake, which occurred at 10:29 p.m., measured 5.1 on the Richter scale, said U.S. Geological Survey spokeswoman Pat Jorgenson. It was centered on the southern Calaveras fault, 7 miles east-northeast of Gilroy, about 75 miles south of San Francisco.

Scientists at UC-Berkeley said the quake measured 5.7 on the Richter scale. The UC-Berkeley and the USGS get different readings because they use different methods of measuring quakes, said Berkeley seismologist Greg Anderson.

A Watsonville Police Department dispatcher who did not want to identify herself said the department received a dozen calls, but no reports of damage with the exception of car alarms going off.

Clerk Jamie Hudson at Lucky's Market at 1437 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville, said the shake knocked merchandise off shelves. She said there was a lot of broken glass.

"There were a few customers in the store when it hit," she said. "But everyone remained calm. The computers stayed on, and after it was over, every one went back to business."

The County Communications Center in the Governmental Cen-

ter in Santa Cruz reported non-stop calls for 40 minutes, many from residents of the Santa Cruz Mountains, who wanted to know if the tremor had been caused by a mudslide.

A spokesman at the Salsipuedes Fire Department said they answered a call reporting a leaking propane tank at 743 Lakeview Road and that they had taken care of the problem.

There were no immediate reports of injury or damage, said a dispatcher with the Gilroy Police Department who declined to give her name. But officers still were checking for possible damage, she said.

The quake, described by some as a sharp jolt and others as a rolling motion lasting several seconds, also was felt throughout the San Francisco Bay area, the Monterey area and in the Central Valley.

"It was felt quite strongly here," said Kathy Osborn, a dispatcher for the Modesto Police Department. "At one end of the room it felt like someone kicking a chair. Then at the other end room it was like a rolling motion."

Law enforcement agencies and a spokesman for the state Office of Emergency Services also said there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit district briefly shut down the Bay area rail system to examine the tracks, usual procedure during a

See QUAKE / back of section ▶

Earthquakes RP p. 12

QUAKE

▶ From Page 1

quake. Service resumed at reduced speed.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of one num-

ber, for example from magnitude 5.2 to magnitude 6.2, means that the ground motion is 10 times greater.

A quake of magnitude 2 is the smallest usually felt by humans. A quake of magnitude 3.5 can cause slight damage. At magnitude 4, the quake can cause moderate damage. At magnitude 5, the quake

can cause considerable damage, at 6, can cause severe damage.

A magnitude 7 earthquake is considered "major," capable of widespread, heavy damage, and a magnitude 8 temblor is a "great" earthquake, capable of tremendous damage.

Staff writer Judy Brill contributed to this report.