

(mercury) ~~12.1~~ - Earthquakes 4.5 earthquake rattles Bay Area

No damage or injuries from temblor centered near Santa Cruz

By John Spalding
Staff Writer

A moderate earthquake centered southeast of Santa Cruz rattled windows and shook some sleepers awake throughout the Bay Area early today, but there were no reports of damage or injuries.

The 1:44 a.m. temblor registered 4.5 on the Richter scale on instruments at the University of California's Seismographic Station in Berkeley.

Roy Miller, research associate at the seismographic station, said the earthquake's epicenter was "right at or near Corralitos," which is southeast of Santa Cruz and about 6 miles north of Watsonville.

The earthquake was felt widely, especially in the South Bay region, although

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law enforcement officers as far north as Marin County reported receiving numerous telephone calls from residents, including many awakened by the earthquake.

Bay Area residents reported the temblor lasted for up to 15 seconds. It was variously described as a sharp jolt, a bang or a shake.

Ken Thomas, fire captain at the California Department of Forestry station at Corralitos, said, "We sure did feel the earthquake. It was really a strong jolt and woke everyone up in the barracks."

The station is on Eureka Canyon Road, about 6 miles north of Watsonville and just a few miles south of the San Andreas Fault, he said.

Watsonville police dispatcher Joe Montoya said, "We felt a very slight shake. There was a weird-sounding noise. I heard a rumble and felt a slight shake."

I talked to my sergeant who was outside on foot patrol and he didn't feel a thing."

Montoya said he received only three telephone calls, two from residents who

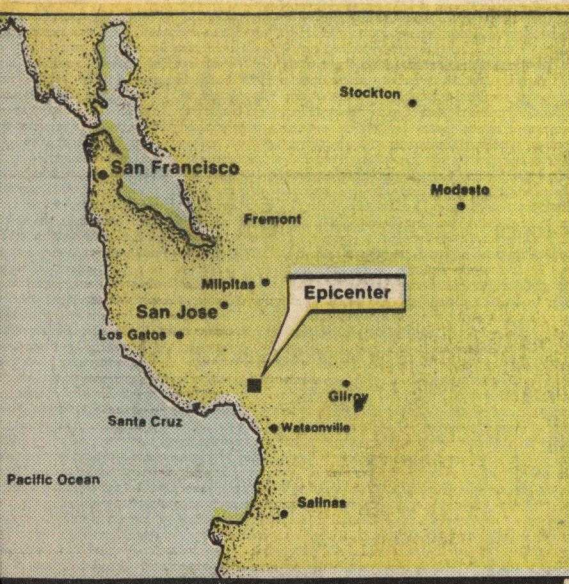
thought there was an explosion. The other caller wanted to confirm it was an earthquake, he added.

In Santa Cruz, police reported six burglar alarms were touched off by the shaking, but no damage was reported anywhere in the city.

Santa Clara County communications said it received about 50 calls, all from concerned residents.

A police dispatcher in Monterey, south of the earthquake's epicenter, said the temblor was not felt there.

A Mountain View police dispatcher said she saw the building's windows shaking, but thought it was a train passing on a nearby track. Then she looked out and saw there was no train.



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