

# 2 more quakes shake up area

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS floor.

A pair of moderate earthquakes early this morning shook the Watsonville area, causing only slight damage and no injuries but frightening many residents who were awakened by the shocks.

The quakes came a few hours after another small quake with the same epicenter, about 5 miles east of Watsonville, said Allan Lindh, a spokesman for the U.S. Geological Survey.

The first quake, measuring 3.2 on the Richter scale, struck at 11:54 p.m. Wednesday, the USGS said. That quake caused no damage or injuries, police and fire officials reported.

A quake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale hit at 2:06 a.m. and was followed by another at about 2:08 a.m. with a magnitude ranging between 4.0 and 4.2, Lindh said.

"That area just north of San Juan Bautista is one of the most seismically active on the San Andreas fault and sequences like this occur in that vicinity every year or two, or more frequently," Lindh said.

He said the quakes are considered aftershocks of a 5.5-magnitude quake in April 1990.

At the Corralitos Market, store manager Dave Peterson expected to find the isles covered with bottles and canned goods when he walked into the store this morning. Instead he found one candy bar on the

"I expected to see more (damage)," he said.

Since the swarm of early-morning quakes that hit the area in April 1990, the store has strapped down some of its merchandise, such as stacks of cans and bottles, and has put netting over other goods that could fall in an earthquake.

At Nob Hill Foods on Main Street, the manager found one jar of jam on the floor, but no other damage.

At Lucky Store on Freedom Boulevard, several ceiling panels fell, but no one was hurt and no other damage was reported. Lucky manager Dave Ramirez, who lives in San Jose, said the temblors woke him up.

Watsonville police dispatcher Felicia Medrano said she received about 30 calls from anxious residents after the later quakes.

"They called to see if we knew how strong it was, if there was any damage or if there were going to be more," Medrano said.

The quakes caused a small rock slide on Highway 129 near Old Chittenden Road, the California Highway Patrol said. CHP and Santa Cruz County sheriff's deputies were at the scene and removed the rocks by hand. The road was not closed and vehicles were not hit by the falling rocks.