

HAZARDS AND THREATS: EARTHQUAKES

HISTORY

History of Major County of Los Angeles Earthquakes

1857 Fort Tejon Earthquake – Antelope Valley

On January 9, 1857, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck near the present-day communities of Wrightwood and Palmdale. The “Fort Tejon Earthquake” damage was not nearly as serious as it would be today, mostly because at that point in time, Southern California was sparsely populated. The effects of the earthquake were quite dramatic, and even frightening. If another “Fort Tejon Earthquake” hits today, the damage totals would easily reach into the billions, and loss of life would be substantial.

Newport-Inglewood Earthquake

At 5:54 p.m., a magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck the Newport-Inglewood Fault on March 10, 1933. The earthquake resulted in 120 deaths and more than \$50 million in property damage, including Long Beach Polytechnic High School as well as the intersection of Broadway and Elm Street. Most of the damaged buildings were caused by unreinforced masonry.

San Fernando Earthquake

The San Fernando Earthquake hit at 6:01 a.m. on February 9, 1971. The earthquake was responsible for 65 deaths and more than \$500 million in damage.

Whittier Narrows Earthquake

The Whittier Narrows Earthquake struck at 7:42 a.m. on October 1, 1987. The 5.9 magnitude earthquake was responsible for eight deaths and \$358 million in property damage.

Sierra Madre Earthquake

The Sierra Madre Earthquake hit at 7:43 a.m. on June 28, 1991. Due to the depth and moderate size of the 5.8 magnitude earthquake, it caused no surface rupture, though the earthquake triggered rockslides that blocked some mountain roads. The earthquake was responsible for two deaths and approximately \$40 million in property damage mostly in the San Gabriel Valley.

Northridge Earthquake

The Northridge Earthquake struck at 4:31 a.m. on January 17, 1994. The 6.7 magnitude earthquake was responsible for 57 deaths and a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) \$40 billion in property damage. An estimated 12,000 people were injured, and 100,000 structures were damaged. More than 600,000 individuals applied for disaster assistance.

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