ESPFOCU

Understand the Threat



WHY?

Earthquakes occur every day in California. They can't be predicted or prevented. But their physical and emotional impacts can be reduced by better individual preparedness.

The San Andreas Fault

The San Andreas Fault is the longest fault in California. Scientists believe it can cause the largest earthquakes. It's been almost 150 years since the last Southern California earthquake on the San Andreas in 1857. Scientists believe a major earthquake on the fault is likely to occur in the next few decades.

Because Southern California was less populated when the 1857 earthquake occurred, it caused only one death. Today millions of people live near the San Andreas, so a similar earthquake today could cause several hundred deaths.

Other Faults

The San Andreas isn't the only fault that threatens Southern California. Seismologists estimate that there are more than 200 faults that can produce damaging earthquakes in the region.

The map below shows some of the major faults in Southern California that can create magnitude 6 or larger earthquakes.



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Possible Impacts

The 1994 Northridge and 1991 Sierra Madre earthquakes showed that earthquakes in the magnitude 6 range can have serious impacts.

Overall Impacts

A major earthquake could have significant impacts on communities, businesses and schools.

Impact on Communities

Earthquakes affect more than infrastructure. The table below uses information from computer models to show the potential impacts on Southern California residents and housing in hypothetical earthquakes at 2 p.m. on the Elsinore, Rose Canyon, Santa Ynez and Sierra Madre Faults.

Earthquake Impacts	Elsinore Fault	Rose Canyon Fault	Santa Ynez Fault	Sierra Madre Fault
Magnitude	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0
Deaths	88	111	27	300
Injuries	6,273	6,413	1,973	18,449
Not Damaged	3,307,879	3,529,836	2,147,115	1,567,531
Slightly Damaged	419,700	260,248	174,122	676,062
Moderately Damaged	160,941	124,443	61,210	321,654
Extensively Damaged	50,781	30,298	13,610	79,562
Destroyed	14,493	7,949	2,992	20,829

Impact on Housing

Impact on Businesses

Businesses are not immune. Past earthquake impacts have included damage to commercial structures, losses of inventory, and business disruption. The table below lists modeling projections of impacts on businesses from the hypothetical earthquakes cited earlier.

Earthquake Impacts	Elsinore Fault	Rose Canyon Fault	Santa Ynez Fault	Sierra Madre Fault
Damaged	14,516	9,193	5,427	35,791
Destroyed	397	427	83	1,103
Structural Damage	\$929m	\$709.8m	\$328.1m	\$2.56b
Nonstructural Damage	\$1.93b	\$1.85b	\$845.5m	\$6.44b
Content Losses	\$1.05b	\$998.7m	\$498,9m	\$3.72b
Inventory Losses	\$64.9m	\$45.1m	\$24.7m	\$209.4m
Business Interruption	\$2.49b	\$2.5b	\$945.7m	\$7.36b
Total Losses	\$6.47b	\$6.1b	\$2.64b	\$20.28b

Impact on Businesses

m - million b - billion

Impact on Schools

California school buildings have become among the safest structures in the State since the adoption of rigid design and construction standards for public and private schools after the 1933 Long Beach earthquake. As the modeling projections in the accompanying table indicate, many buildings will sustain at least moderate damage. Most, however, will be at least partially functional on the day of the earthquake.

Impact on Educational Institutions

Earthquake Impacts	Elsinore Fault	Rose Canyon Fault	Santa Ynez Fault	Sierra Madre Fault
Not Damaged	4,225	4,297	2,971	2,025
Slightly Damaged	143	84	45	337
Moderately Damaged	82	95	29	335
Extensively Damaged	20	24	5	100
Destroyed	7	4	0	22



This action sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase emergency preparedness at home, in the community, at work and at school. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and representatives from Southern California cities and counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.