

12 hurt in Japan quake as life returns to normal

May 31 2015, by Mari Yamaguchi



Japanese soccer fans react to a strong earthquake as they watch a J-League soccer match between the Shonan Bellmare and the Sanfrecce Hiroshima at BMW Stadium in Hiratsuka, southwest of Tokyo Saturday, May 30, 2015. A

powerful and extremely deep earthquake struck a group of remote Japanese islands and shook Tokyo on Saturday, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami, and no injuries or damage were immediately reported. (Munehide Someya/Kyodo News via AP)

Twelve people suffered minor injuries and businesses returned to normal Sunday after a powerful earthquake near remote Japanese islands shook most of the country the previous night, but it was well beneath the earth's surface and did not trigger a tsunami.

The magnitude-7.8 quake struck off the Ogasawara islands Saturday night at a depth of 678 kilometers (421 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said.

It was followed by a magnitude-6.4 quake Sunday morning off Japan's Izu islands, which are north of the Ogasawaras.

The latest quake struck at a depth of 8 miles (13 kilometers) with the epicenter 390 miles (630 kilometers) southeast of Tokyo. It was not strong enough to generate a [tsunami warning](#) or close enough to the islands to cause any significant damage or injuries, said John Bellini, a USGS geophysicist in Golden, Colorado. He said it is considered a separate seismic event and not an aftershock from Saturday's quake.

Saturday night's temblor was powerful enough to rattle most of Japan, from the southern islands of Okinawa to Hokkaido in the north. It caused buildings to sway in Tokyo—about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) north of the Ogasawara islands—and temporarily disrupted some train services in the city. About 400 houses in Saitama prefecture, just north of the capital, were without power, according to the Tokyo Electric Power Co.

At Tokyo's Roppongi Hills shopping and business complex, elevators stopped soon after the magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck, forcing hundreds of visitors to climb down the stairs. Among them were about 200 people who came to see the Star Wars exhibit on the 52nd floor.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency said that 12 people were injured, including with burns, cuts, bruises and from falls.



A large screen displays an earthquake alert to soccer fans as a strong earthquake jolts Shonan BMW Stadium where a J-League soccer match between the Shonan

Bellmare and the Sanfreccce Hiroshima is being held in Hiratsuka, southwest of Tokyo Saturday, May 30, 2015. A powerful and extremely deep earthquake struck a group of remote Japanese islands and shook Tokyo on Saturday, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami, and no injuries or damage were immediately reported. (Yohei Nishimura/Kyodo News via AP)

At an inn on the Ogasawara island of Hahajima, furniture shook violently, although nothing fell or broke, innkeeper Michiko Orita told NHK. "It was so frightening. The entire house shook and a Buddhist altar violently swayed like I have never experienced before," she said, adding that all her guests were safe.

In March 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake rocked northeastern Japan, triggering a tsunami that killed more than 18,500 people and ravaged much of the northern Pacific coast. The depth of that quake was just 24 kilometers (15 miles), according to the meteorological agency.



A woman holding the team signboard for Hungary and kendo players look up the ceiling as a strong earthquake jolts Nippon Budokan martial arts hall during an awarding ceremony for the World Kendo Championships in Tokyo Saturday, May 30, 2015. A powerful and extremely deep earthquake struck a group of remote Japanese islands and shook Tokyo on Saturday, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami, and no injuries or damage were immediately reported. (Meika Fujio/Kyodo News via AP)



Japan Meteorological Agency's earthquake and volcano observations division director Koji Nakamura speaks during a news conference on a strong earthquake that shook Tokyo at the agency headquarters in Tokyo Saturday, May 30, 2015. A powerful and extremely deep earthquake struck near remote Japanese islands and shook Tokyo on Saturday, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami, and no injuries or damage were immediately reported. (Tsuyoshi Ueda/Kyodo News via AP)

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