

Short, sharp earthquake jolts San Francisco Bay Area

August 17 2015, by Kristin J. Bender

A short, sharp earthquake rattled the San Francisco Bay Area early Monday, breaking picture frames and cracking plaster without prompting reports of injuries or major damage.

The magnitude-4.0 [quake](#) struck at 6:49 a.m. and was centered just north of Piedmont, near Berkeley, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It was felt in downtown San Francisco, along the peninsula and in the East Bay.

"This was a fairly small one but we should be prepared for them at all times," USGS spokeswoman Leslie Gordon said.

The shallow quake produced a sharp jolt followed by gentle rolls. People on social media reported broken clocks and picture frames.

"I was eating breakfast when the whole house shook and several picture frames propped on our mantle and on a side table in the dining room crashed to the floor," Adam Van de Water of Oakland said in an email to The Associated Press. "My heart rate spiked and stayed elevated for a few minutes until it was clear it was over."

He said a neighborhood visitor from Australia thought a bomb had gone off.

Bay Area Rapid Transit held commuter trains for about five minutes and there were minor delays as crews checked the tracks. No damage was reported.

The quake struck on the Hayward Fault at a depth of about 3.4 miles, according to the USGS.

There are several hundred known faults in the state and others that are not known, said Lucy Jones, a seismologist with the USGS. About 200 are considered potentially hazardous.

The Hayward fault runs from the cities of San Pablo Bay to Fremont and passes through Berkeley, Oakland and Hayward.

Monday's quake came just one week before the one-year anniversary of the magnitude-6.0 earthquake that caused millions of dollars in damage and injured hundreds of people in California wine country.

The Napa quake was the largest temblor to hit the San Francisco Bay Area since the magnitude-6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 on the San Andreas Fault.

The quake on Monday, along with the Napa and Loma Prieta temblors, all occurred during warm weather, but Gordon said there is no link between hot or muggy weather and temblors.

"You can look back at earthquakes records and there is not a correlation," she said.

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