

## Strong earthquake rocks east Indonesia; communications lost

February 12 2016

---

A strong earthquake rocked eastern Indonesia on Friday, apparently knocking out communications on islands near the epicenter.

Information on damage and injuries was not available due to the communication problems. Rescuers were being sent by sea to the area, Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the magnitude-6.6 quake had no potential to trigger a tsunami.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at 6.5 magnitude and said it was centered about 94 kilometers (58 miles) west of Waingapu, a coastal town on Sumba island in East Nusa Tenggara province, with a depth of 30 kilometers (19 miles).

The quake was also felt on the tourist destination of Lombok island in neighbor West Nusa Tenggara province, causing people run out of houses and buildings in panic, he said.

Sumba island is often hit by earthquakes that cause no significant damage since there are not many tall buildings and most homes are made of wood. The population in the closest areas to the epicenter is about 110,000.

The world's largest archipelago, Indonesia is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of

volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

A monster temblor off Indonesia in 2004 triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries. Most of the deaths were in Aceh province.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Strong earthquake rocks east Indonesia; communications lost (2016, February 12)  
retrieved 26 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-02-strong-earthquake-eastern-indonesia-tsunami.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.