

Two large earthquakes hit central Italy

January 18 2017

Monitors say two earthquakes have hit central Italy in short succession, with tremors felt in the capital, Rome.

The German Research Centre for Geosciences, which operates a regional quake monitoring system, says a quake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 hit the region north of Amatrice at about 10:25 a.m. (0925 GMT) on Wednesday.

A second quake with the same magnitude hit the same area about 50 minutes later.

The mountainous Amatrice region was shaken by three quakes last year, killing nearly 300 people and causing significant damage to older buildings.

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Citation: Two large earthquakes hit central Italy (2017, January 18) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-01-large-earthquakes-central-italy.html>

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