

Powerful earthquake shakes South Pacific nation of Vanuatu; no tsunami threat

December 7 2023



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

A powerful earthquake shook the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu on Thursday evening, but countries in the region said there was no threat of a tsunami.

The magnitude 7.1 earthquake was located 123 kilometers (76 miles) south of the town of Isangel on the island of Tanna, the U.S. Geological Agency said. It said the quake was centered at a depth of 48 kilometers (30 miles).

The chance of fatalities and large economic losses in the sparsely populated area was low, it said.

Vanuatu has a population of about 337,000, with about 1,200 living in Isangel.

The area is part of the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

A 7.7 [magnitude](#) earthquake in May created small tsunami waves in Vanuatu.

© 2023 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without permission.

Citation: Powerful earthquake shakes South Pacific nation of Vanuatu; no tsunami threat (2023, December 7) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-12-powerful-earthquake-south-pacific-nation.html>

| |
|--|
| <p>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.</p> |
|--|