

# Strong quake hits Solomons; some damage but no tsunami

January 22 2017, by Rod McGuirk

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A powerful magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck deep under Papua New Guinea on Sunday, causing damage and blackouts but no tsunami hours after the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued an alert for nearby islands.

The mid-afternoon quake struck at a depth of 167 kilometers (103 miles) beneath the eastern province of Bougainville, where Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands meet in a continuous South Pacific archipelago, said Chris McKee, assistant director of Papua New Guinea Geophysical Observatory in Port Moresby.

No casualties were reported. But there was damage in parts of central Bougainville and the major town of Arawa, Aloysis Laukai, manager of New Dawn FM Bougainville radio station, said in an email.

The provincial capital of Buka was blacked out and residents of the southern town of Buin were moved to higher ground as a precaution against a potential [tsunami](#), Laukai said. All [tsunami warnings](#) were later lifted.

The greatest tsunami threat had been to Bougainville and that threat had passed without any report of a tsunami, McKee said.

"I suspect that because of the great depth of the earthquake, there was probably no significant tsunami," McKee said.

Solomons government official George Herming said he was not aware of any major tremors being felt in his country or any tsunami.

Jennifer El-Sibai, Save the Children's Country director in Papua New Guinea, said that national and provincial disaster authorities were monitoring the tsunami situation and Save the Children staff were ready to respond if required.

The countries are located in the Pacific's geologically active "Ring of Fire."

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