

Japan quake causes minor tsunami, 16 hurt

19 June 2019, by Shingo Ito



An electronic signboard displays the Jyoetsu bullet train operation suspended between Tokyo and Niigata, following a strong earthquake that rocked Japan

A strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake rocked Japan, sparking a tsunami advisory that was later lifted with no reports Wednesday of major damage and only a handful of light injuries.

The nation's meteorological agency had warned Tuesday that a wave of one metre (three feet) could hit the coast of the Sea of Japan, north of Tokyo, but only small ripples of 10 centimetres were recorded.

The agency cancelled the tsunami advisory around two and a half hours after the quake.

The earthquake registered six on the Japanese scale, which goes up to a maximum of seven and was felt in the capital, which is more than 300

kilometres (185 miles) away.

The US Geological Survey put the magnitude of the quake at 6.4.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters his government would be "on the maximum alert" to prepare for possible rescue operations in the region and warned citizens to be vigilant for strong aftershocks.

At least 16 were injured after the earthquake, [local authorities](#) told AFP.

In Niigata, a man in his 30s fell down and broke a bone, a woman in her 60s fell from her wheelchair and sustained light injuries, and two others were also lightly injured, the prefecture's disaster management department said in a statement.

In Yamagata, at least 12 people were injured "but we are still gathering information on details," the prefecture's disaster management official Yusuke Niizeki told AFP.

The earthquake struck at a late hour in mainly sparsely populated areas so it was not easy to evaluate the damage immediately.



Wednesday morning, NHK also said.

An agency official told an emergency news conference that residents in the region should stay vigilant as "a sizeable earthquake may occur again."

The official also warned that bad weather was forecast in the region, which could potentially trigger landslides.

NHK aired footage showing an elementary school ceiling collapsing onto the ground, and small scale landslides in some towns and near railways.

'No abnormalities'

"All nuclear power plants have reported no abnormalities," government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters in a late nationally televised news conference on Tuesday.

"Strong jolts may continue," warned Suga, adding that authorities were checking for signs of damage or injuries.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his government would be on "maximum alert" following the strong earthquake

Witnesses cited by national broadcaster NHK said they experienced strong shaking that knocked some books off shelves and moved some furniture.

The broadcaster showed images of some cups and glasses smashed on the floor of a restaurant.

Officials immediately stopped bullet train services in the region as a precautionary measure, but resumed operation from Wednesday morning, according to NHK.

Thousands of households were left without power temporarily but power supply recovered by



Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said no abnormalities were reported at the country's nuclear power plants following the quake

There were multiple small aftershocks after the main quake.

Some local roads were also closed after the [earthquake](#), which struck at around 10:22 pm (1322 GMT).

Japan sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where many of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are recorded.

A powerful quake rocked northern Japan in September and triggered massive landslides that killed 44.

Last June, a deadly tremor rocked the Osaka region, killing five people and injuring more than 350 others.

On March 11, 2011, a devastating 9.0-magnitude quake struck under the Pacific Ocean, and the resulting tsunami caused widespread damage and claimed thousands of lives.

Niigata itself has a history of large earthquakes.

In 2004, a 6.8-magnitude quake hit, killing 68, including [elderly people](#) who died in the days and weeks after the first tremor from stress and fatigue.

The area was also hit by a magnitude-6.8 quake in 2007, leaving 15 people dead.

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