



# NEWS



## News Headlines 07/18/2019

- City offers information about preparing for disasters
- California governor says the earthquakes that shook the state are a 'wake-up call' for residents

## City offers information about preparing for disasters

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

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Residents are urged to plan ahead in order to be prepared for a disaster. (Contributed photo by the California Office of Emergency Services)

Natural disasters and emergencies don't plan ahead, but you can.

The City of Fontana urges its residents to take proactive steps in order to be prepared for the next disaster. Residents can visit the City's new Emergency Preparedness web page at [fontana.org/emergencypreparedness](http://fontana.org/emergencypreparedness) to learn how to get ready for an earthquake, fire, or other calamity.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends having enough food, water and other supplies to last for a minimum of 72 hours. The Emergency Preparedness web page includes a printable Emergency Kit Checklist which features supplies such as water, first aid, sanitation, power, and other crucial items needed to survive and sustain through a disaster, regardless if it is natural or man-made.

The web page also includes:

- How to create a Family Disaster Plan
- Information on shelter and evacuations
- What to do in the event of a earthquake and fire
- Resources such as Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and Fontana's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)
- The Fontana Ready Guide -- a guide designed to give residents the tools necessary to plan, prepare and practice from hazards most specific to Fontana (fires, floods, wind, earthquakes)

Be prepared for a disaster right through your phone. The Ready San Bernardino County app allows users to sign up to receive critical emergency alerts, locate emergency shelters, create a personalized Emergency Preparedness Plan, and more. The app can be downloaded on the App Store or Google Play.

In the event of a citywide disaster, the City of Fontana will activate its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in the Fontana Police Department. The EOC serves as the hub for coordinating response efforts, in which decision makers and response team personnel come together to serve in one location. When the EOC is activated, check the designated Emergency Updates web page to find real-time updates.

For more information, contact Emergency Services Officer Aminah Mears at (909) 501-7769.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/city-offers-information-about-preparing-for-disasters/article\\_3e15acf0-a8a3-11e9-b562-771096a1c8fc.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/city-offers-information-about-preparing-for-disasters/article_3e15acf0-a8a3-11e9-b562-771096a1c8fc.html)

## **California governor says the earthquakes that shook the state are a ‘wake-up call’ for residents**

**Staff Writer, Brinkwire Latest News and Reports**

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The two massive earthquakes that shook Southern California on Thursday and Friday should be a ‘wake-up call’ for all Americans facing natural disasters, the state’s governor said.

Governor Gavin Newsom also warned that Californians ‘all have a unique role and responsibility individually to be prepared for the next earthquake of a magnitude even greater than 7.1.’

Residents should know how to protect themselves during a quake, he said at a press conference on Saturday on the state’s efforts to help the areas affected by the tremors.

He continued: ‘We all have an opportunity now to get more prepared, be more vigilant, look at our building codes, look at our home hardening, to look at that alert system.’

‘It is a wake-up call for the rest of the state and other parts of the nation, frankly,’ Newsom said.

The first earthquake measuring at magnitude 6.4 shook the south of the state on Thursday morning.

It was determined to be a foreshock to an even larger 7.1 temblor that came 32 hours later on Friday night.

The second shock was 11 times stronger, five times bigger and lasted longer.

The quake struck at 8:19 p.m. and was centered 11 miles from Ridgecrest in the same areas where the previous quake hit.

It was felt as far north as Sacramento, as far south as Mexico, and as far east as Las Vegas, where shockwaves were perceived as a rolling motion that seemed to last at least half a minute.

Officials in Ridgecrest and Trona, the two damaged desert communities, worked Sunday to repair roads and restore utilities following the earthquakes.

The two neighboring towns were hit hard by the magnitude 7.1 quake that rocked the remote Mojave Desert region on Friday.

Roads in Ridgecrest were in good shape, electricity was back on and the water system was working, said Jed McLaughlin, chief of police for the town of 28,000.

But many in nearby Trona, a gateway for Death Valley, didn’t have water, and crews were still patching up cracked roads in the town of fewer than 2,000 people.

Friday’s quake sparked several house fires, shut off power, snapped gas lines, cracked buildings and flooded some homes when water lines broke.

The relatively limited damage was largely due to the remoteness of the area where the quake hit.

But Governor Newsom warned after visiting Ridgecrest over the weekend that ‘it’s deceiving, earthquake damage. You don’t notice it at first.’

He said much of the foundation cracks and other damage can’t be seen by walking down the street, only by walking through people’s homes.

He added that many in the community are without earthquake insurance because it is too expensive.

‘This is a socioeconomic issue,’ Newsom said after touring the town. ‘In the mobile home park ... people don’t have a place to go once they have been red-tagged.’

The governor estimated more than \$100 million in economic damage and said President Donald Trump called him to offer federal support in the rebuilding effort.

‘He’s committed in the long haul, the long run, to help support the rebuilding efforts,’ Newsom said of Trump.

‘We are as a state as well,’ he added.

The governor said the damage would have been much higher had the epicenter been in an area such as Los Angeles, rather than the remote Ridgecrest area.

Newsom said a statewide early alert system, called the California Integrated Seismic Network, is around 70 percent completed, but needs some further expansion.

The system would warn the public, and interface with critical infrastructure to automatically shut off some infrastructure, such as train systems.

Dr Lucy Jones, a seismologist for the California Institute of Technology (CalTech), said Friday’s quake was the most powerful to hit Southern California since another 7.1 temblor in the same area in 1999.

And the earth under Southern California has not stopped rumbling ever since the first shake on Thursday, with more than 1,400 aftershocks recorded shortly afterwards, scientists say.

Officials raised concerns about the possibility of major aftershocks in the days and even months to come.

Aftershocks from the mainshock could even occur for years, Jones said.

The United States Geological Survey website predicts that over the next week, there is a 2 percent chance of one or more aftershocks that are even larger than magnitude 7.1.

But Jones said on Twitter: ‘The potential for increased weather disasters coming with climate change make the earthquake problem look small.’

The strength of the earthquake is the most important measure, referring to the amount of energy released and thus the amount of damage. Friday’s quake released 11 times the amount of energy of Thursday’s, while it measured five times larger on the seismograph.

‘It is really the energy or strength that knocks down buildings,’ according to the US Geological Survey (USGS).

Due to the possibility of aftershocks, the California National Guard was sending 200 troops, logistical support and aircraft, Maj. Gen. David Baldwin told ABC News.

The Pentagon had been notified, and the entire California Military Department was put on alert, he said.

The epicenters of both quakes were on the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

The base said in a Facebook post that nonessential workers were evacuated and operations halted, and officials said they are continuing to assess damage, ABC News reported.

The California Office of Emergency Services brought in cots, water and meals and set up cooling centers in the region, Director Mark Ghilarducci told ABC.

In Ridgecrest, local fire and police officials said they were initially swamped by calls for medical and ambulance service. But there was ‘nothing but minor injuries such as cuts and bruises, by the grace of God,’ Ridgecrest Police Chief Jed McLaughlin said.

Two building fires – one involving a mobile home – were quickly doused, and there were several reports of natural gas leaks, but the lines were shut off, McLaughlin said.

For the second time in as many days, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital wheeled patients out of the building, some still hooked to IVs, CNN reported.

Several residents removed their mattresses from their homes and slept outside on Friday night because they felt it was safer than being inside.

‘When you lose all ability and sense of — sort of your own control of your surroundings, it is scary,’ CNN’s Sara Sidner said after interviewing Ridgecrest residents.

‘When the Earth is literally moving underneath you and things are falling off the walls and you don’t know how much longer it’s going to go on, it feels like eternity as one of these earthquakes roll through.’

Looting was also reported in Ridgecrest after the quakes.

Mayor Peggy Breeden told KTLA that ‘bad people’ have been adding to the difficult situation by stealing from businesses where merchandise was rattled off the shelves and scattered all over the floor.

Nearby, the tiny town of Trona, with about 2,000 residents, was reported to have at least 50 damaged structures.

Roads were buckled or blocked, and police put out a call for bottled water for residents.

State Route 178 in Kern County was closed by a rockslide and had severe cracking.

Fire officials reported ‘multiple injuries and multiple fires’ without providing details.

**San Bernardino County firefighters** reported cracked buildings and a minor injury, and Newsom declared a state of emergency for the county.

‘Homes shifted, foundation cracks, retaining walls down,’ the department said on Twitter.

‘One injury (minor) with firefighters treating patient. No unmet needs currently.’

Earlier this year, KPCC, a public radio station in Southern California, released a podcast titled ‘The Big One: Your Survival Guide,’ aimed at coaching Californians to prepare for a potentially devastating earthquake.

Geologists believe a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, a 750-mile fault line running almost the length of California, is likely ‘overdue’.

The southern San Andreas Fault has typically seen large earthquakes every 150 years, according to the US Geological Survey.

The last large earthquake there was in 1857.

This week’s tremors occurred near Ridgecrest, north of the fault.

<https://en.brinkwire.com/us/california-governor-says-the-earthquakes-that-shook-the-state-are-a-wake-up-call-for-residents/>