



# NEWS



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- 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Southern California

## **Pedestrian fighting for life after driver flees scene on Bear Valley Road in Victorville**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 7, 2019



Deputies investigated a hit-and-run crash Sunday night. (Gabriel D. Espinoza, Victor Valley News)

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A pedestrian was airlifted with critical injuries after being struck by a hit-and-run driver Sunday night.

At about 8:45 p.m., emergency personnel were dispatched to a vehicle versus pedestrian crash in the 15200 block on Bear Valley Road, west of Balsam Avenue.

**San Bernardino County Fire** located one victim and requested a helicopter to land at Desert Valley Hospital.

The victim was flown to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center with life-threatening injuries.

Victor Valley News Group member Beeto Leon posted about the incident and said, “whoever hit that guy on Bear Valley right in front of me and just took off, I hope you have bad karma for not stopping and helping the guy out.”

Beeto described the suspect vehicle as a large dark-colored BMW SUV that continued westbound on Bear Valley.

According to Beeto, the pedestrian was a Hispanic male adult wearing a red shirt with a large mustache and goatee.

Two westbound lanes of Bear Valley Road were closed just west of Balsam Avenue while Victorville Police investigated.

Check back later for updates as they become available.

<https://www.vvng.com/pedestrian-fighting-for-life-after-driver-flees-scene-on-bear-valley-road-in-victorville/>

## Vehicle goes over the side on Arrowhead Lake Road in Hesperia

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 7, 2019



(Photo taken by Perry A. Millard)

HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) — Only minor injuries were reported after a vehicle crashed thru a barricade and went over the side several feet.

It happened at about 3:30 pm on Sunday, July 7, 2019 in the area of Arrowhead Lake Road and Whitehaven Street in Hesperia.

According to the California Highway Patrol incident logs, the vehicle crashed thru a barricade and landed on its side approximately 100 feet from the roadway down an embankment.

**San Bernardino County Fire** responded to the scene and treated the male driver for minor injuries.

County Roads has been advised to respond and repair 30 feet of guardrail that was damaged.

As of 4:30 pm, two tow trucks were on scene attempting to remove the vehicle.

The California Highway Patrol Victorville Station is investigating the crash.

<https://www.vvng.com/vehicle-goes-over-the-side-on-arrowhead-lake-road-in-hesperia/>

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## Brush fire closes Needles Bridge

Robin Richards, Mohave Daily News

Posted: July 6, 2019



A fire in heavy brush along the Colorado River between the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe's California Village and the Needles Bridge had emergency responders scrambling, including the **San Bernardino County** and Mohave Valley **fire** departments, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department's Colorado River Station and the City of Needles. The blaze briefly closed the Needles Bridge to traffic, forcing a lengthy detour for travel between Needles and the Mohave Valley.

[http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/brush-fire-closes-needles-bridge/image\\_0a7446b0-a07c-11e9-89de-27f4edfff13b.html](http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/brush-fire-closes-needles-bridge/image_0a7446b0-a07c-11e9-89de-27f4edfff13b.html)

## Crews battle, thwart brush fire in Adelanto

Matthew Cabe, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: July 6, 2019, 12:01 AM



Residents watch from their backyards as San Bernardino County Fire crews work a vegetation fire in Adelanto on Saturday afternoon. Firefighters made quick work of the eight-acre blaze, which started in a field near the intersection of Seneca Road and Clydesdale Street. [Jose Quintero, Daily Press]

**ADELANTO — San Bernardino County Fire** Department crews battled and thwarted a vegetation fire here that broke out Saturday afternoon and spread quickly with help from wind.

The fire started around 1:30 p.m. in a field near the intersection of Seneca Road and Clydesdale Street. Firefighters were on the scene as of 2:32 p.m., according to a County Fire tweet.

Fire officials on scene told the Daily Press the flames quickly spread to three acres of “light fuel.” Moderate winds pushed the blaze north, fewer than 100 feet from the backyards of homes on Clydesdale Street.

Adelanto resident Francisco Rivera stood on a chair near his fence and watched the firefighters in action. He said he learned of the fire when his wife told him she could see smoke outside their backyard.

“I grabbed my water hose just in case the flames came any closer to my house,” Rivera told the Daily Press. “The wind pushed the flames up the field pretty quickly.”

The fire increased in size, but crews quickly doused the flames and stopped forward spread at a little more than eight acres. Firefighters were in mop-up mode as of 3:11 p.m., according to a second County Fire tweet.

County Fire spokesperson Jeremy Kern could not immediately be reached for comment Saturday evening.

Daily Press Sports writer Jose Quintero contributed to this report.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190706/crews-battle-thwart-brush-fire-in-adelanto>

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## Brush fire erupts along the NB-15 in the cajon pass

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 5, 2019



**CAJON PASS, Calif. (VVNG.com)** — Fire crews are responding to a brush fire on the northbound I-15 approximately one miles south of Oak Hill Road.

The fire was reported at 6:49 pm on Friday, July 5, 2019.

A picture posted on Facebook by Char Ann showed a hillside burning along the right hand shoulder.

According to the latest information there are two large spots burning approximately a quarter acre in size with a slow rate of spread.

**San Bernardino County Fire** is responding to assist.

The San Bernardino National Forest Fire Service is taking the lead on the incident dubbed the Oaks incident.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

This is a developing story. Be sure to refresh this post for the latest updates.

<https://www.vvng.com/brush-fire-erupts-along-the-nb-15-in-the-cajon-pass/>

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## **ILLEGAL FIREWORKS START VEGETATION FIRE IN YUCCA VALLEY**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: July 5, 2019

Morongo Basin firefighters responded to only one fireworks-related fire Thursday. **County Fire** Battalion Chief Mike McClintock said that firefighters from Yucca Valley, Yucca Mesa, and Joshua Tree were called to the 59000 block of Barron Drive in Yucca Valley about 9:55 p.m. for a vegetation fire. According to McClintock, the residents said someone driving by shot a firework out the car window and started the fire. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to an area about 100 by 100 feet.

<http://z1077fm.com/illegal-fireworks-start-vegetation-fire-in-yucca-valley/>

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## **Vegetation fire south of Jurupa Hills is stopped by firefighters**

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 5, 2019

A vegetation fire which erupted in the Jurupa Hills area south of Fontana on the night of July 4 was stopped, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

The fire south of Weeping Willow Lane initially had the potential to burn 100 acres, but firefighters made progress after the blaze advanced just 2-3 acres and was moving uphill away from homes, the Fire Department said. Hand crews were assigned as part of a second alarm, the Fire Department said on Twitter.

An hour later, the forward rate of spread was halted. Firefighters remained at the scene for mop-up.

There were no reports of injuries or damage. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/vegetation-fire-south-of-jurupa-hills-is-stopped-by-firefighters/article\\_3d0a3770-9f40-11e9-a465-2b73b8ac2665.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/vegetation-fire-south-of-jurupa-hills-is-stopped-by-firefighters/article_3d0a3770-9f40-11e9-a465-2b73b8ac2665.html)

## Off-trail hiking prohibited at Big Falls in Forest Falls

Staff Writer, News Mirror

Posted: July 5, 2019



An off-trail area around one of Southern California's tallest waterfalls will be closed to the public beginning on the 4th of July, San Bernardino National Forest officials announced today. Visitors will still be able to hike the Big Falls Trail to a waterfall overlook, but areas beyond the railing will be closed due to safety.

"There have been too many search and rescues in this area in the past," said Joe Rechsteiner, the district ranger for the Front Country Ranger District. "We want to make sure the public enjoys this beautiful spot while staying safe. Some of rocks in Falls Creek are deceptively slippery."

Search and rescues by partners at **San Bernardino County Fire** and sheriff's deputies are sometimes so frequent in this area that one rock in particular is known to locals as "Blood Rock." A slip on it has sent multiple people tumbling down the middle fall, often prompting injury and rescue by helicopter.

The closure will be enacted by a forest order and will last through May 24, 2020, unless rescinded earlier.

[https://www.newsmirror.net/news/off-trail-hiking-prohibited-at-big-falls-in-forest-falls/article\\_8602d838-9f4f-11e9-91a8-97d7bcb7f7e2.html](https://www.newsmirror.net/news/off-trail-hiking-prohibited-at-big-falls-in-forest-falls/article_8602d838-9f4f-11e9-91a8-97d7bcb7f7e2.html)

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## Teenager Found Dead After Attempting a Flip off a Cliff in the Colorado River

Génesis Miranda Miramontes, NBC 4 News

Posted: July 7, 2019



A teenager was found dead in the Colorado river Saturday morning after attempting to do a flip off a cliff and landing wrong, according to authorities.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating Safety began the search on Friday after reports of a person that jumped into the water near Mohave Rock.

The teenager, identified as Chance Huerta, 16, of Victorville, resurfaced for a brief moment before witnesses say they lost sight of him.

The search continued Saturday morning for Huerta underwater using dive teams and scan sonar as Search and Rescue units searched the shoreline and aeriels, according to Sergeant Kyler Cox of the Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating Safety.

Huerta was found 13 feet underwater, according to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating Safety.

"I can't even imagine being in the shoes of the family right now," Cox said.

The Division of Boating Safety, with assistance from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department began conducted the investigation.

"It's a huge tragedy," Cox said. "All we can advise everybody and preach is just wear a life jacket. Life jackets are key."

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Teenager-Found-Dead-After-Attempting-a-Flip-off-a-Cliff-in-the-Colorado-River-512425512.html>

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## **Body of Victorville teen, 16, recovered from Colorado River**

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 6, 2019

MOHAVE – Sheriff's officials said they've recovered the body of a 16-year-old Victorville teen who died while attempting to cliff dive into the Colorado River.

It happened on Friday, July 5, 2019, at about 4:20 pm when the Mohave County Sheriff's Office was notified of a male teen that jumped into the water near Mohave Rock, north of the Sand Bar and had not resurfaced.

The Division of Boating Safety began investigating, with assistance from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

According to a news release, dive teams and side scan sonar were used for underwater searches, while Search and Rescue Units were activated for shoreline and aerial searches.

The following morning on Saturday at approximately 9:15 AM, the male subject was located deceased by side scan sonar and recovered by divers.

The victim has been identified as Chance Huerta of Victorville, CA.

According to the release, "It was determined that the victim attempted to do a flip off of a cliff and landed wrong. The victim came to the surface briefly, before witnesses on scene lost sight of him."

This investigation is ongoing.

<https://www.vvng.com/body-of-victorville-teen16-recovered-from-colorado-river/>



## Body of Deceased Victorville Teen Found in Lake Havasu

Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News

Posted: July 6, 2019

LAKE HAVASU, AZ. – Authorities have recovered the body of a 16-year-old Victorville boy who was reported missing on Friday.

At around 4:20 p.m., the Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating Safety was notified that Chance Huerta had jumped off of a cliff near Mojave Rock in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. He went into the water resurfaced briefly, then disappeared back into the water, a witness reported

The search began with San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department all assisting in the search. Dive teams and side scan sonar were used for underwater searches, while Search and Rescue Units were activated for shoreline and aerial searches.

At around 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, July 6, 2019, the deceased teen was located by side scan sonar and recovered by divers. Authorities said that Huerta attempted to do a flip off of the cliff and landed wrong. The investigation is ongoing.

<https://247headline.com/body-of-deceased-victorville-teen-found-in-lake-havasu/>

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## Body recovered of California teen who jumped off a cliff into Colorado River

Staff Writer, KGUN 9 News Tucson

Posted: July 6, 2019, 3:28 PM



A teen who went missing after jumping off a cliff into the Colorado River north of Lake Havasu on Friday was found dead by dive teams Saturday morning.

According to the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, a 16-year-old boy jumped off a cliff near Mohave rock just north of the sand bar and failed to resurface sometime around 4 p.m.

Dive teams found the teen and recovered the body around 9 a.m. on Saturday. The teen has been identified as 16-year-old Chance Huerta of Victorville, California. MCSO says witnesses reported seeing the teen attempting to do a flip off of a cliff and landed wrong and came to the surface briefly before witnesses lost sight of him.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating Safety is on scene investigating with assistance from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

<https://www.kgun9.com/news/region-northern-az/lake-havasu/body-recovered-of-california-teen-who-jumped-off-a-cliff-into-colorado-river>

## California teen drowns near Lake Havasu

Staff Writer, Daily Miner

Posted: July 6, 2019, 12:25 PM



Authorities searched by water, air and land for a missing California teen. He was found deceased in the Colorado River north of Lake Havasu City on Saturday, July 6, 2019. (MCSO photo)

KINGMAN – Mohave County Sheriff's authorities say a 16-year-old male from California was found deceased 15 hours after the agency was notified that a teenager had jumped off a cliff on the Colorado River north of Lake Havasu City but didn't resurface on Friday.

Divers recovered Chance Huerta of Victorville, California at about 9:15 a.m. Saturday with the use of sonar after MCSO was notified at about 4:20 p.m. Friday about the missing teenager, according to MCSO Public Information Specialist Anita Mortensen.

Early reports indicated that Huerta had jumped off a cliff near Mohave Rock, just north of the Sand Bar, and failed to resurface. The Division of Boating Safety began investigating, with assistance from San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and **San Bernardino County Fire Department**. Dive teams and side scan sonar were used for underwater searches, while Search and Rescue Units were activated for shoreline and aerial searches.

It was determined that the victim attempted to do a flip off of a cliff and landed wrong. The victim came to the surface briefly before witnesses on scene lost sight of him.

This investigation is ongoing.

Information provided by MCSO

<https://kdminer.com/news/2019/jul/06/california-teen-drowns-near-lake-havasu/>

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## Teenager dies after jumping off cliff near Mohave Rock on Colorado River

Staff Writer, KTNV 13 Las Vegas News

Posted: July 6, 2019, 11:54 AM



LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZ. (KTNV) — A 16-year-old male is dead after jumping off a cliff near Mohave Rock, just north of the Sand Bar, on the Colorado River near Lake Havasu City.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office Division of Boating Safety was notified at 4:20 p.m. July 5 that the boy had jumped and did not resurface.

The Division of Boating Safety began investigating with assistance from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and **San Bernardino County Fire** Department. Dive teams and side scan sonar were used for underwater searches while others search the shoreline.

The teenager's body was located at approximately 9:15 a.m. July 6. He has been identified as Chance Huerta of Victorville, California.

It was determined that teenager was trying to do a flip off the cliff and landed wrong.

<https://www.ktnv.com/news/teenager-dies-after-jumping-off-cliff-near-mohave-rock-on-colorado-river>

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## **Body of 16-year-old boy recovered from Colorado River north of Lake Havasu**

Cody Miller, News 3 Las Vegas

Posted: July 6, 2019

LAKE HAVASU CITY, Ariz. (KSNV) — The Mohave County Sheriff's Office was notified Friday, July 5, around 4:20 p.m. of a subject that had not resurfaced after jumping into the water near Mohave Rock, located north of Lake Havasu on the California-Arizona border.

The subject, 16-year-old Chance Huerta from Victorville, California, had attempted to do a flip off of a cliff and had landed wrong.

Witnesses reported that Huerta had surfaced briefly before they lost sight of him.

Multiple agencies responded to the incident, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Dive teams and side scan sonar were used for shoreline and aerial searches.

Huerta's body was recovered around 9:15 a.m. by divers after being found by sonar.

Investigation into the incident is ongoing, and boaters should expect delays when traveling through the area.

<https://news3lv.com/news/local/body-of-16-year-old-boy-recovered-from-colorado-river-north-of-lake-havasu>

## **Huge earthquake rocks California with tremors felt in Las Vegas and Mexico, footage captured during NBA**

James McKern, Paul Johnson and James Hall, News.com.au/News Crop Australia

Posted: July 8, 2019

California is bracing itself for further aftershocks after the biggest earthquake in a quarter of a century rattled parts of the US state, leaving devastation and carnage in its wake.

A 7.1 magnitude tremor shook buildings and cracked foundations at the epicentre near Ridgecrest, nearly 250 kilometres north east of the city of Los Angeles, just a day after another quake rocked the region.

At the NBA Summer League fans had rocked up to catch a glimpse of number one draft pick Zion Williamson make his professional NBA debut but they were quickly exiting the building after a tremor rocked the building.

Later, the city's mayor, Peggy Breeden, said seismologists had warned there was a strong chance of another quake as nearly 100 aftershocks caused mayhem.

"Be prepared for other large aftershocks," the mayor told CNN.

"We may have them, we may not, but whatever (happens) we're going to be prepared for them as best we can because we have no alternative.

"We're a community in the desert of 28,000 people, they depend on us for their safety and their health."

Earlier during the destruction, Mayor Breeden was speaking live to CNN reporters when a large aftershock rocked amid cracked and burning buildings, broken roads, obstructed railroad tracks and leaking water and gas lines.

Seismologists warned the area could see up to 30,000 aftershocks over the next six months.

April Hamlin said she was "already on edge" when the second quake rattled her Ridgecrest home. She and her three kids initially thought it was another aftershock.

"But it just kept on intensifying," she said. "The TV went over, hanging by the cord. We heard it break. We heard glass breakage in the other rooms, but all we could do was stay where we were until it stopped."

Local broadcast reporters at KCAL were rocked by the earthquake live as they dived for cover.

With the possibility of aftershocks and temperatures forecast to reach 100 degrees (38 Celsius) over the next several days, officials were taking precautions.

The California National Guard was sending 200 troops, logistic support and aircraft, said Maj. Gen. David Baldwin.

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

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake said in a Facebook post that non-essential workers were evacuated and operations halted.

Officials said the station “is not mission capable until further notice.”

Live footage of the moment the earthquake struck was also captured live on ESPN as the NBA’s Summer League showcase was taking place.

As a result of the quake, spot fires broke out among the carnage as gas lines failed and major roads cracked and multiple injuries were reported although there were no reported fatalities.

Seismologist Dr Lucy Jones said the quakes could continue. “This is an earthquake sequence,” she said at a press conference. “It will be ongoing.”

“Every earthquake makes another earthquake more likely,” she added, saying there was a 10 per cent chance of a similar or even larger quake following in the next week.

However, Dr Jones said it was not likely the quake would trigger shocks on other fault lines.

Her comments were backed up by The National Weather Service, they tweeted a warning that there is a greater than 99 per cent chance there will be aftershocks measuring over 5 on the Richter scale.

California Governor Gavin Newsom offered his “heartfelt support” to all those affected, and has requested a Presidential Emergency Declaration and federal aid to help.

So far President Trump has not commented on the natural disaster but he has been briefed on it.

Local area Fire Chief David Witt said there had been no immediate reports of building collapses or deaths.

“We know of no fatalities. There have been a lot of ambulance calls for help,” Kern County Fire Chief David Witt said at a news conference.

“We’re launching a lot of people ... I am very confident that we can take care of the situation.” **San Bernardino County firefighters** reported cracked buildings and one minor injury.

Mark Ghillarducci, director of the California Office of Emergency Services, said there are “significant reports of structure fires, mostly as a result of gas leaks or gas line breaks throughout the city.”

He also said there’s a report of a building collapse in tiny Trona. He says there could be even more serious damage to the region that won’t be known until first light on Saturday.

Ridgecrest Mayor Peggy Breeden told Reuters “We’ve got fires, we’ve got gas leaks, we’ve got injuries, we’ve got people without power.”

## NBA AND MLB GAMES SHOCKED BY QUAKE

At the NBA Summer League fans had rocked up to catch a glimpse of number one draft pick Zion Williamson make his professional NBA debut but they were quickly exiting the building after a tremor rocked the building.

The game was brought to a standstill with more than 7 minutes to play in the final quarter as the overhead speakers and scoreboard began to sway.

Plenty of celebrities were caught up in the quake as make up mogul Kylie Jenner and singer Nicki Minaj tweeted their angst.

The tremors not only affected the NBA action in Las Vegas, but took over the UFC's Hall of Fame induction night and the Los Angeles Dodgers' game.

There was no announcement by the stadium's public address announcer. Some fans in the upper deck appeared to leave their seats and move to a concourse at the top of the stadium.

The press box lurched for about 20 seconds.

"Everyone was jumping over us to leave," said Daniel Earle, 52, of Playa del Rey, who was sitting with his wife in the stadium's reserve level.

"People were freaking out," he said.

"There was a concession guy, and he actually was really cool because he was really calm. He's like, 'Relax. Tranquillo. Relax. Tranquillo,' and people were looking around."

"My wife was holding us, like squeezing. I'm surprised my arm is still here. She was squeezing into it so hard," Earle said.

The game, unlike the NBA continued.

## TWO QUAKES IN TWO DAYS

Footage from the latest earthquake flooded social media with one user uploading terrifying footage from inside the Morongo Casino in Cabazon, California with another showing a backyard pool in Ridgecrest splashing water everywhere as the ground shook.

The Los Angeles Times reported over 2,000 residents in Ridgecrest and surrounding areas are without power.

The latest earthquake comes just a day after California was rocked by the most powerful earthquake to strike southern California in decades.

The quake — which measured a 6.4 magnitude on the Richter scale — also struck near the town of Ridgecrest. It was very shallow — about 10.7km — which would have amplified its effect, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS).

There were reports of damaged buildings, power lines down, broken water mains, rock slides and fires in some areas. One major highway sustained a four inch crack in San Bernardino County, according to local fire department spokesman Jeremy Kern.

It was not immediately clear whether anyone was injured in that quake, which hit just after 10.30am Thursday, local time.

Residents of California were bracing for the much feared “big one” earthquake which has been predicted for decades after southern California was hit by a 6.4 magnitude quake — the biggest in 25 years — followed by more than 200 aftershocks.

The biggest aftershock registered 5.4 magnitude and struck in the same desert region as the original 6.4 magnitude earthquake.

Its epicentre was about 18km west of Searles Valley, the US Geological Survey said.

<https://www.news.com.au/sport/american-sports/nba/earthquake-brings-nba-game-in-las-vegas-to-standstill/news-story/89f27c4fda9d43235b3ede08ab70736a>

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## **Gov. Newsom says Trump wants to help California**

The Associated Press, Las Vegas Review Journal

Posted: July 7, 2019, 7:40 AM



Items are scattered around a kitchen Saturday, July 6, 2019 following an earthquake in Ridgecrest, Calif. The Friday evening quake with a magnitude of about 7.1 jolted much of California, cracking buildings, setting fires, breaking roads and causing several injuries while seismologists warned that large aftershocks were expected to continue for days, if not weeks. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

**RIDGECREST, Calif. — The Latest on Southern California’s strongest earthquake in 20 years (all times local):**

4 p.m.

Gov. Gavin Newsom says President Donald Trump has called him and expressed commitment to helping California recover from two earthquakes that hit the state in as many days.

Speaking to reporters after touring the damage zone, Newsom said Saturday that he and Trump talked about the struggles California has been through, including two devastating wildfires that happened just six months ago.

The Democratic governor said “there’s no question we don’t agree on everything, but one area where there’s no politics, where we work extremely well together, is our response to emergencies.”

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

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2 p.m.

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake says it authorized evacuations for non-essential employees and their dependents while officials continue to assess earthquake damage to the huge military installation in Southern California.

The epicenters of the 7.1 magnitude quake on Friday and the magnitude 6.4 quake on Thursday were on the base, which is the size of Rhode Island. No injuries were reported.

Access to the base was restricted to mission-essential personnel until Monday morning.

Officials said most employees live off the base, but they authorized the evacuation so those who live on base can be eligible for reimbursements.

The installation in the Mojave Desert is the Navy's largest single landholding

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1 p.m.

Fire officials say as many as 50 structures in the small town of Trona were damaged by the magnitude 7.1 earthquake Friday night in Southern California.

In addition, San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood said Saturday that damaged water lines prompted FEMA to deliver a tractor-trailer full of bottled water to the town, and firefighters were checking numerous reports of gas leaks.

The town was temporarily cut off after the earthquake, when officials shut down a highway connecting Trona to Ridgecrest because of rockslides and cracks in the roadway.

Julia Doss, who maintains the Trona Neighborhood Watch page on Facebook, said residents reported that chimneys and entire walls collapsed during the quake.

She said the only food store in town has been shuttered.

The hardscrabble town with 1,500 residents on the edge of a dry lake bed is considered the gateway to Death Valley.

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12:30 p.m.

A seismologist in California says scientists believe the sequence of earthquakes striking the Mojave Desert will produce more than 30,000 quakes of magnitude 1 or greater over six months.

Dr. Egill Hauksson also said Saturday at Caltech that the probability of a magnitude 7 over the next week has declined to 3 percent.

He says the probability for a magnitude 6 is 27 percent so he would expect one or two of those in the next week.



The epicenter of Friday night's 7.1 magnitude earthquake was 11 miles (18 kilometers) from Ridgecrest in the same area where a 6.4 magnitude temblor hit just a day earlier.

Hauksson says Ridgecrest used to be known as the earthquake capital of the world because it had so many small quakes.

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11:45 a.m.

Eugene Johnson is cleaning up his home after the 7.1 magnitude earthquake brought down his brick chimney and fireplace.

The 61-year-old Trona resident said Saturday that he and his wife were in bed watching TV Friday night when the quake started.

They rushed into their living room to hold onto their fish tank and big-screen TV and watched the fireplace collapse.

Dishes crashed out of cabinets, boxes of macaroni fell to the floor and spilled everywhere, and the refrigerator careened halfway across the kitchen.

Johnson says his wife is ready to move back East but he doesn't want to return to snow and cold weather.

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11:20 a.m.

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake says it is not fully operational after back-to-back major earthquakes hit Southern California.

The station said Saturday in a Facebook post that its non-essential personnel were evacuated.

The installation in the Mojave Desert covers an area larger than Rhode Island and is the Navy's largest single landholding.

The Facebook post says normal operations were halted until further notice and it was not clear when they would resume.

Friday's 7.1 magnitude quake occurred a day after a magnitude 6.4 quake hit in the same area about 150 miles from Los Angeles.

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11:05 a.m.

The mayor of Ridgecrest says there were two reports of burglaries in the Southern California city following the 7.1 earthquake Friday night.

Mayor Peggy Breeden said Saturday that some “bad people” came into the community and tried to steal items from businesses.

Police Chief Jed McLaughlin said one business was burglarized, with an expensive piece of equipment stolen.

A home was also broken into and police are waiting to see what was taken.

Friday’s quake occurred a day after a magnitude 6.4 quake hit in the same area of the Mojave Desert about 150 miles from Los Angeles.

Officials say there were some power outages.

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10:50 a.m.

A state official says damage from the 7.1 magnitude earthquake in Southern California was not as bad as authorities expected.

Mark S. Ghilarducci, director of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, said Saturday that Ridgecrest and Trona suffered structure fires, gas leaks, power outages, road damage and rock slides.

He says the damage was not as extensive as expected despite back-to-back quakes on Thursday and Friday.

He says nearly 200 people were in shelters.

Ghilarducci says cleanup work is underway in San Bernardino and Kern counties, and Caltrans has worked to patch and fix roads, as well as clear rock slides.

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9:30 a.m.

A fire official says there were no fatalities or major injuries in Ridgecrest after the 7.1 magnitudes earthquake on Friday night.

Kern County Fire Chief David Witt also said Saturday there were no major building collapses but some structures could be weakened from the back-to-back quakes.

Friday’s quake occurred a day after a magnitude 6.4 quake hit in the same area of the Mojave Desert about 150 miles from Los Angeles.

Witt says there were some power outages and minor gas and water leaks in Ridgecrest, but no known damage outside the area.

He urged residents to get supplies ready in case another quake hits.

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9 a.m.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has declared a state of emergency for a section of Southern California that saw significant damage after Friday night's magnitude 7.1 earthquake.

The declaration provides immediate state assistance to San Bernardino County, citing conditions of "extreme peril to the safety of persons and property" in the county due to the earthquake.

State highway officials shut a 30-mile section of State Route 178 between Ridgecrest — the area hit by two major temblors as many days — and the town of Trona southwest of Death Valley.

Photos posted on Twitter by the state highway department shows numerous cracks in the road.

A spokesman for the governor's Office of Emergency Services says crews were still assessing damages to water lines, gas lines and other infrastructure Saturday.

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12:15 a.m.

Small communities in the Mojave Desert are reeling from a magnitude 7.1 earthquake — the second major temblor in as many days to rock Southern California.

Authorities say Friday night's shaker was centered near the town of Ridgecrest — the same area where a 6.4-magnitude quake hit on Independence Day.

Mark Ghillarducci, director of the California Office of Emergency Services, says there are "significant reports of structure fires, mostly as a result of gas leaks or gas line breaks throughout the city."

He also says there's a report of a building collapse in tiny Trona. He says there could be even more serious damage to the region that won't be known until first light on Saturday.

The quake at 8:19 p.m. was felt as far north as Sacramento and even in Las Vegas. It's been followed by a series of sizeable aftershocks.

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10:30 p.m.

Authorities say a magnitude 7.1 earthquake that jolted California has caused injuries, sparked fires, shut roads and shaken ball games and theme parks.

However, authorities say there are no deaths or major building damage reported from the quake, which struck at 8:19 p.m. Friday.

It was centered about 150 miles from Los Angeles in the Mojave Desert near the town of Ridgecrest, which was still recovering from a 6.4-magnitude preshock that hit the region on Thursday.

There were reports of trailers burning at a mobile home, and State Route 178 in Kern County was closed by a rockslide and roadway damage.

But Kern County Fire Chief David Witt says it appears no buildings collapsed. He also says there have been a lot of ambulance calls but no reported fatalities.

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9:50 p.m.

An earthquake rattled Dodger Stadium in the fourth inning of the team's game against the San Diego Padres.

The quake on Friday night happened when Dodgers second baseman Enriquè Hernández was batting. It didn't appear to affect him or Padres pitcher Eric Lauer.

However, it was obvious to viewers of the SportsNet LA broadcast when the TV picture bounced up and down.

The quake registered an initial magnitude of 6.9 to 7.1, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

There was no announcement by the stadium's public address announcer.

Some fans in the upper deck appeared to leave their seats and move to a concourse at the top of the stadium.

The press box lurched for about 20 seconds.

The quake occurred a day after a magnitude 6.4 quake hit in the Mojave Desert about 150 miles from Los Angeles.

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9:40 p.m.

Authorities are now reporting injuries and damage from a big earthquake that was felt throughout Southern California and into Las Vegas and even Mexico.

The quake that hit at 8:19 p.m. was given a preliminary magnitude of 6.9 to 7.1, but the measurements were being calculated.

It followed Thursday's 6.4-magnitude quake that at the time was the largest Southern California quake in 20 years. Both were centered near Ridgecrest in the Mojave Desert.

Kern County fire officials reported "multiple injuries and multiple fires" without providing details. **San Bernardino County firefighters** reported cracked buildings and a minor injury.

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8:30 p.m.

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.9 has jolted Southern California, but there are no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the quake hit at 8:19 p.m. Friday and was centered 11 miles from Ridgecrest, where a magnitude 6.4 quake struck on Thursday. The agency initially said the earthquake had a magnitude of 7.1.

The quake was felt downtown as a rolling motion that seemed to last at least a half-minute. It was felt as far away as Las Vegas, and the USGS says it also was felt in Mexico.

If the preliminary magnitude is correct, it would be the largest Southern California quake in 20 years.

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4 p.m.

Seismologists say there have been 1,700 aftershocks in the wake of the strongest earthquake to hit Southern California in 20 years but the chances of another large temblor are diminishing.

A magnitude 5.4 quake at 4:07 a.m. Friday is so far the strongest aftershock of Thursday's 6.4 quake, which struck in the Mojave Desert near the town of Ridgecrest.

Zachary Ross of the California Institute of Technology says the number of aftershocks might be slightly higher than average. He also says a quake of that size could continue producing aftershocks for years.

The quake caused some damage to buildings and roads in and around Ridgecrest.

However, seismologists say it's unlikely the quake will affect any fault lines away from the immediate area, such as the mighty San Andreas.

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1:20 p.m.

The city of Los Angeles is planning to reduce the threshold for public notifications by its earthquake early warning app, but officials say it was in the works before Southern California's big earthquake Thursday.

The ShakeAlert LA app was designed to notify users of magnitudes of 5.0 or greater and when a separate intensity scale predicts potentially damaging shaking.

Robert de Groot of the U.S. Geological Survey says lowering the magnitude to 4.5 was already being worked on and had been discussed with LA as recently as a day before Thursday's magnitude 6.4 quake centered in the Mojave Desert.

The shaking intensity levels predicted for LA were below damaging levels, so an alert was not triggered.

Mayor's office spokeswoman Andrea Garcia also says the lower magnitude threshold has been in the planning stages and an update to the system is expected this month.

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7:05 a.m.

A vigorous aftershock sequence is following the strongest earthquake to hit Southern California in 20 years.

A magnitude 5.4 quake at 4:07 a.m. Friday is so far the strongest aftershock of Thursday's magnitude 6.4 jolt, and was felt widely.

Seismologists had said there was an 80% probability of an aftershock of that strength.

Thursday's big quake struck in the Mojave Desert, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles, near the town of Ridgecrest, which suffered damage to buildings and roads.

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9 p.m.

The strongest earthquake in 20 years shook a large swath of Southern California and parts of Nevada on the July 4th holiday, rattling nerves and causing injuries and damage in a town near the epicenter, followed by a swarm of ongoing aftershocks.

The 6.4 magnitude quake struck at 10:33 a.m. Thursday in the Mojave Desert, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles, near the town of Ridgecrest, California.

Kern County Fire Chief David Witt says multiple injuries and two house fires were reported in the town of 28,000. Emergency crews were also dealing with small vegetation fires, gas leaks and reports of cracked roads.

Witt says 15 patients were evacuated from the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital as a precaution and out of concern for aftershocks.

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/nation-and-world/gov-newsom-says-trump-wants-to-help-california-1705457/>

## 2 days, 2 major quakes and plenty of aftershocks to come

Faith Karimi and Holly Yan, KRDO/CNN

Posted: July 7, 2019



(CNN) - Jolted by two major earthquakes and spontaneous fires, Southern California residents are nervously combing through the damage as thousands of aftershocks rattle the region.

The epicenter of Friday's magnitude 7.1 quake was 11 miles northeast of Ridgecrest, but was felt as far away as Mexico and Las Vegas, the US Geological Survey said.

It came just one day after a magnitude 6.4 tremor that also rocked the Ridgecrest area.

Here is the latest on the two earthquakes:

### The injuries

Ridgecrest, the desert town of 28,000, bore the brunt of both quakes' wrath.

Officials responded to reports of injuries and fires in Kern County, where the town is located. But they didn't give a specific number of casualties. Kern County Fire Chief David Witt said he wasn't aware of any fatalities.

In addition to the injuries, much of Ridgecrest and the surrounding areas were plunged into darkness due to power outages.

About 130 residents from Bakersfield and Trona were staying in a temporary shelter, officials said.

### The damage

Trona, a town of about 2,000 people, doesn't have power or running water, the **San Bernardino County Fire Department** said.

As many as 50 structures were damaged by the magnitude 7.1 tremor Friday night.

Workers had been restoring power from the initial earthquake Thursday when Friday's quake cut off power again.

The town was briefly cut off after officials shut down a highway connecting Trona to Ridgecrest due to rockslides and cracks after the earthquake, CNN affiliate KTLA reported. Water lines were also damaged, prompting the Federal Emergency Management Agency to deliver bottled water to Trona.

### The aftershocks

There have been more than 4,700 quakes since Thursday, geophysicist John Bellini said.

"They are coming in every 30 seconds, every minute," he said.

The region has suffered an average of one aftershock per minute since Friday's quake, the US Geological Survey said.

The emergency declarations

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for Kern County on Thursday and for San Bernardino late Friday.

And President Donald Trump approved an emergency declaration for the region, meaning federal funds will be available to help in the recovery.

What's next

The threat of dangerous tremors isn't over yet. On Friday, Caltech seismologist Lucy Jones said both of the recent major earthquakes are part of an ongoing, "very energetic system."

"It is most likely that as few as 240 or as many as 410 such earthquakes may occur in the case that the sequence is reinvigorated by a larger aftershock," the USGS said.

As of Saturday morning, the chance of another earthquake hitting the area with at least a magnitude-3 intensity was more than 99%.

And the chance of another magnitude-7 quake (or stronger) was 3%, the USGS said.

CNN's Paul Vercammen, Alexandra Field, Carma Hassan, Joe Sutton, Sheena Jones, Sarah Moon, Braden Goyette, Deanna Hackney, Dave Alsup and Haley Brink contributed to this report.

<https://www.krdo.com/news/national-world/2-days-2-major-quakes-and-plenty-of-aftershocks-to-come/1092845313>

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## **Powerful 7.1 Earthquake Hits Southern California Day After Magnitude 6.4 Quake**

Tasnim News Agency Staff Writer, Eurasia Review News & Analysis

Posted: July 7, 2019



Cracks in road after powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit Southern California. Photo Credit: Tasnim News Agency

Terrified residents spent sleeping time out on the streets after a powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake hit Southern California on Friday night, which swayed buildings and cracked foundations.

The latest earthquake Friday struck 11 miles northeast of Ridgecrest, according to the US Geological Survey. It was five times bigger than Thursday's 6.4 -magnitude earthquake, also centered near Ridgecrest, CNN reported.

In Ridgecrest, multiple fires broke out Friday and several injuries were reported, according to Kern County spokeswoman Megan Person. The US has activated an emergency operations center, and nearly 2,000 people are without power, officials said.



The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said it received multiple reports of damage as well from northwest communities.

“Homes shifted, foundation cracks, retaining walls down,” the department said. “One injury (minor) with firefighters treating patient.”

While there are no reports of major gas leaks or fatalities, there have been a lot of ambulance calls and medical aid calls, Kern County Fire Department Chief David Witt said.

In Los Angeles, about 150 miles away from Ridgecrest, residents felt the earth shake, but there were no reports of serious damage, Mayor Eric Garcetti said.

There were some wires down and localized power outages, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said. It said there was no major infrastructure damage, and no deaths and serious injuries were reported.

The shaking was felt as far away as Mexico and Las Vegas, according to the USGS.

The NBA Summer League game between the New Orleans Pelicans and the New York Knicks in Las Vegas was postponed Friday following reports of the quake. Scoreboards and speakers near the ceiling of the arena shook when the earthquake hit.

A CBS news presenter displayed remarkable earthquake survival discipline as she was broadcasting live during a quake in Los Angeles, ducking under the desk with cameras rolling.

“We’re experiencing very strong shaking... I think we need to get under the desk,” CBS Los Angeles newscaster Sara Donchey said, clinging to her co-host as he cued up a commercial. Not waiting for the on-air light to go off, she slid out of her chair and under the desk.

CalTech seismologist Lucy Jones said Friday both earthquakes are part of an ongoing sequence, of a “very energetic system.”

The latest 7.1-magnitude earthquake was the mainshock, while Thursday’s 6.4-magnitude quake was a foreshock, according to Jones.

In addition to being bigger, Miller said it released more than 11 times the amount of energy than the 6.4 one.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/07072019-powerful-7-1-earthquake-hits-southern-california-day-after-magnitude-6-4-quake/>

## **Trona Residents Report No Water, No Electricity, and a Low Food Supply**

**Staff Writer, 24/7 Headline News**

Posted: July 6, 2019

TRONA, Calif. – The Trona and Ridgecrest areas are attempting to get back to their pre-earthquake lives, but several ongoing situations are creating difficulties.

At the Town Hall meeting on Sunday evening, residents, mostly those living in the Trona area, have expressed the desperate need for help. Several have reported still having no running water, being in need of food, and not having electricity. Frustration, sadness, desperation, and anger all were clearly expressed by residents, some saying that the meeting was only a “pat on the back”. Stories of those unable to go home because their mobile or modular homes rocked off of the foundations during the earthquakes were shared by some sheltered at the Kerr McGee Community Center.

Marley’s Mutts Dog Rescue Miracle Mutts Team from Tehachapi was at the Red Cross Emergency shelter, comforting both adults and children who have been displaced as a result of the earthquakes on July 4th and July 5th.

Of course, the Red Cross has stepped up to run the shelter and Kern and San Bernardino Counties have also stepped in. There is some help, but most say not nearly enough help has got to where it is needed yet. Still, the residents of Trona are reporting that they have no running water; meaning no cleaning, no washing hands, no showers, no drinking water, and no flushing toilets in their own homes.

Some of these households have extremely low incomes, have no vehicles, or have no fuel. Many are disabled, have disabled children, or are elderly. The residents have expressed the need for items including diapers, baby wipes, adult cleaning type body wipes (since they can’t shower), dog crates (for the Red Cross shelters), canned food, pet food, non-perishable snacks, baby formula, bottled water, pet food, jello, fruit, baby food, hand sanitizer, clean blankets, and camping gear.

Residents of both Ridgecrest and Trona have expressed gratitude to those out of their general area who have traveled to their area with supplies. Residents from the Victor Valley area of the High Desert have collected items within their communities and have made several trips providing to those in need of supplies.

There are also collections in the Phelan, Pinion Hills, and Wrightwood areas. Several people have reached out to 24/7 Headline News to offer their trucks and time to make the deliveries. Several have offered to do local pickups and many have offered donated items, money to purchase items, and a couple of people have even graciously contributed to the fuel costs for some of the deliveries. Jennifer Kiever recently delivered a truckload of water and some snacks. She reported that a couple from Orange County was also delivering a truckload of water when she and her friend, Ann Lind were delivering in their trucks.

The Trona Baptist Church, located at 84661 Trona Road in Trona is collecting and delivering donations to the people in Trona who are in need. In addition, for those wishing to donate items, the Red Cross has expressed the need for snacks, diapers, dog crates, pet food, and baby wipes. These items can be delivered to Trona High School, located at 83600 Trona Rd, Trona or the Ridgecrest Police Department at 100 W. California Avenue in the City of Ridgecrest.

The Ridgecrest Animal Shelter and Almost Eden Animal Rescue have said that they are in need of potty pads, pet food, blankets, kennels, and play yards. The Ridgecrest Animal Shelter is located at 411 San Bernardino

Blvd. in Ridgecrest and Almost Eden Animal Rescue is located at 355 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. in Ridgecrest. They have a large number of animals that became lost after running scared during the earthquakes.

The community overall has come together, and clung close to one and other, looking out for their neighbors. Trona, which is having the most difficulties following the earthquakes, has seen the least assistance since most deliveries initially went to Ridgecrest. Although some residents have not received any help, days after the earthquakes, some have reported the Red Cross going door-to-door dropping off water, MRE's (Meals Ready-to-Eat), cleaning supplies, and other items. Others have also mentioned individuals and churches bringing assistance when it is needed the most.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Incident Commander has estimated that 20-50 structures have sustained damage with more expected to be identified. Ridgecrest Regional Hospital is closed and they are triaging patients in the parking lot under a tent. Traffic signals throughout the region are blinking red lights. The Naval Air Warfare Weapons Center will remain closed to the majority of their personnel until Wednesday, July 10, 2019, until the damage can be evaluated.

It may be months until there will be normalcy in the Trona and Ridgecrest areas.

<https://247headline.com/trona-residents-report-no-water-no-electricity-and-a-low-food-supply/>

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## **Life is tough in Trona – and a pair of earthquakes just made it tougher**

**Beau Yarbrough, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin**

Posted: July 6, 2019, 7:34 PM



A cinder block wall collapsed onto the street outside a home in Trona Saturday July 6. The area has been hit with two major earthquakes since Thursday. (Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

TRONA – California's biggest earthquake in two decades has made one of the most precarious communities in the state even more so.

Even before the July 4 6.4 earthquake and Friday's 7.1 quake, the former company town of Trona was a ghost town, with vacant homes outnumbering occupied ones on many streets. With a population of less than 2,000, it's dwarfed by nearby Ridgecrest, with its modest population of 29,000, just over the Kern County line.

"People are trying to get out of town, because they think another quake's coming," said resident Jerry Johnson.

The unincorporated community was cut off from the outside world on Friday, as Trona Road, the main artery to Ridgecrest 20 miles away, buckled and split during Friday's earthquake. The road was reopened on Saturday, although with a large asphalt ridge now patching the broken road.

But water remained off in Trona, and the Ridgecrest Police Department was soliciting donations of bottled water to truck in.

"You need some water, ma'am?"

Joe Pattison, of Upland, opened his pick-up truck in the earthquake-buckled parking lot of Trona's Family Dollar, pulling out a case of bottled water for a local woman who declined to be interviewed.

"Just a guy who comes up here a lot on business," Pattison shrugged, driving off to hand out more water.

Residents picked up water at Trona High and **San Bernardino County Fire Station 57**, both on Trona Road. The high school, a focal point for the community, with its famous all-dirt football field — possibly the only one in the United States — sustained some damage, although the full extent of it was not yet known on Saturday.

Chimneys had toppled over on houses, crashing through at least one roof. Even one of the chimneys at the Searles Valley Minerals Trona facility, which looms over the town and provides many of its jobs, had partially crumbled.

"My house is leaning," said Casey Hudgins. "It's not liveable."

Thursday's quake had scattered her family's belongings. Friday's quake had split her kitchen's concrete floor and left her home tilted over.

"I talked to my landlord," she said. "He said insurance will be out on Monday."

In the meantime, they've moved into a neighboring house.

"Most of our stuff is OK," Hudgins said. "My kids are fine, my husband's fine. That's what's important."

Even Trona's dead were impacted by the two large earthquakes. At the Searles Valley Cemetary, vases and even tombstones were toppled by the earthquakes and a few graves caved in.

Johnson said he thinks Trona will survive the quakes.

"I think (the population) is stable for now," he said, waiting to get water at the fire station. "I think it's a good town for kids."

Trona Unified, which had an enrollment of 576 students in the 1996-97 school year, was down to 270 students between Trona Elementary and Trona High, in the 2016-17 school year.

Johnson has no intention of leaving Trona.

"I love it here," he said. "I've been here 20 years. I bought my house at a tax sale. I got it for \$3,200."

He went on to pick up another nine properties, all at unthinkable low prices for most of Southern California.

Hudgins is staying, too.

"People say it's quiet. It's what you make of it," she said.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/07/06/life-is-tough-in-trona-and-a-pair-of-quakes-just-made-it-tougher/>

## New magnitude 7.1 earthquake strikes Southern California, felt in Bay Area

Jason Green and The Associated Press, Times~Herald

Posted: July 6, 2019, 2:40 PM



RIDGECREST, Calif. — A magnitude 7.1 earthquake rocked Southern California on Friday night, causing injuries, sparking fires and damaging buildings, and was felt as far away as the Bay Area.

The quake hit about 8:20 p.m., 11 miles north-northeast of Ridgecrest, near where a magnitude 6.4 struck a day earlier. Friday night's jolt was followed by a series of strong aftershocks, including a magnitude 5.5 and a magnitude 5.4, both near Little Lake.

The U.S. Geological Survey briefly downgraded the temblor to a 6.9 before relisting it as a 7.1. That makes it the strongest shaker to strike the region in at least 20 years.

Megan Person, a spokeswoman for the Kern County Fire Department, said there were reports of multiple injuries and multiple fires. Power was knocked out to about 1,800 people.

The county opened an emergency shelter and Governor Gavin Newsom activated its Office of Emergency Services to coordinate mutual aid with local first responders. Meanwhile, a rockslide closed State Route 178 in Kern River Canyon, where photos from witnesses also showed that a stretch of roadway had sunk. And there was at least one report of a building that had collapsed in the tiny town of Trona. **San Bernardino County firefighters** reported cracked buildings and one minor injury.

Newsom said on Friday he spoke with Peggy Breeden, the mayor of Ridgecrest, where the quake was centered.

"The support of all Californians are with the people of her community and the surrounding areas," Newsom said via a tweet.

In downtown Los Angeles, 150 miles away from the epicenter, offices in skyscrapers rolled and rocked for at least 30 seconds.

"I thought it was the vibration of the music," said Armando Carrera, 35, of South Gate, who was at a party in Pasadena when the quake hit. "Then it picked up and I saw chandeliers moving, and I knew I wasn't going crazy."

The quake was also felt as far away as the Bay Area, Mexico and Las Vegas, where an NBA Summer League game was stopped. Speakers over the basketball court at the Thomas & Mack Center continued swaying more than 10 minutes after the quake.

Sarah Minson, a research geophysicist with the USGS, said it wasn't unusual that the temblor was felt hundreds of miles away. She noted that the 1906 San Francisco quake was felt in Oregon.

"The bigger the earthquake is, the stronger the shaking and the farther away it is felt," Minson said.

Seismologists said Thursday's magnitude 6.4 quake was followed by more than 1,700 aftershocks and that they might continue for years. However, that jolt will now be considered a foreshock to Friday night's quake.

There is about a 1-in-10 chance that another magnitude 7.0 quake could hit within the next week, said Lucy Jones, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology and a former science adviser at the U.S. Geological Survey.

The chance of a magnitude 5.0 quake "is approaching certainty," she added.

However, the quake was unlikely to affect fault lines outside of the area, Jones said, noting that the gigantic San Andreas Fault was far away.

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2019/07/06/new-magnitude-7-1-quake-strikes-southern-california/>

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## State of emergency declared for San Bernardino County

Brian Rokos and Marilyn Kalfus, Daily Democrat

Posted: July 6, 2019, 10:09 AM



A home in Ridgecrest that burned last night after the 7.1 earthquake. (Photo by Jennifer Maher/SCNG)

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino County in the wake of a powerful magnitude 7.1 earthquake on Friday night, as urban search and rescue crews from around Southern California headed to Ridgecrest and surrounding areas to help assess the damages.

Los Angeles County Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team 136 and Hazardous Materials Team 811 were sent Friday night. A heavy rescue apparatus and urban search and rescue support vehicle with six firefighters also headed to areas that felt the brunt of the quake, according to the Orange County Fire Authority.

San Bernardino first responders reported 911 calls coming in from northwest communities in the county, with homes shifted, foundation cracks and retaining walls down.

Numerous gas leaks were detected in the Trona and Argus areas, according to **San Bernardino Fire** authorities. Firefighters secured leaks where possible and evacuated residents from homes where the leaks could not be secured, the agency announced.

The Ridgecrest Police Department sent out a plea for Trona, saying the community is in "serious need of water." Police urged anyone able to bring a case, boxed or wrapped, to the Ridgecrest Police Department, so it could deliver water to Trona in a trailer.

Trona, a tiny unincorporated community on Death Valley's southwestern border, is 170 miles northeast of Los Angeles and an hour and a half north of the High Desert community of Adelanto.

A state of emergency helps to get resources in play more quickly and allows counties to recover some of their expenses when disasters strike.

Also on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said there's a 3 percent chance of another earthquake of magnitude 7 or greater striking the area within a week. The chance of a quake of magnitude 6 or higher is estimated at 27 percent; the USGS says it is most likely that as many as two such quakes will occur.

The quake that hit Friday at 8:19 p.m. in rural Kern County shook Southern California, damaging roadways and causing an unknown number of injuries and structure fires. It was the second large quake to rattle the region in two days and was centered roughly 11 miles northeast of Ridgecrest, near where Thursday's 6.4 magnitude quake hit, the USGS said.

Several injuries and multiple structure fires were reported in the Ridgecrest area, state officials said late Friday night. But officials on Saturday morning said there were no fatalities or major injuries.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom activated the state's Office of Emergency Services to its highest level, enabling state emergency crews to respond and coordinate with other first responders.

Dr. Lucy Jones, a seismologist with the United States Geological Survey, said the USGS has reclassified Thursday's earthquake as a foreshock, since Friday night's earthquake was larger in magnitude.

"It will be ongoing," Jones said. "It is clearly a very energetic sequence, so there's no reason to think we can't have more (earthquakes)."

On Friday, scientists at Caltech said there were 1,400 aftershocks as of mid-afternoon, including a 5.4 magnitude quake that struck at about 4 a.m., scientists said.

"Prepare yourself for the next week to two weeks, this isn't going to stop in the near future," Ridgecrest police Chief Jed McLaughlin told residents late Friday night.

There were numerous reports of the quake being felt throughout Southern California, and beyond.

<https://www.dailydemocrat.com/2019/07/06/state-of-emergency-declared-for-san-bernardino-county-l-a-o-c-search-and-rescue-crews-head-to-ridgecrest-in-wake-of-7-1-earthquake/>

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## **State of emergency declared in San Bernardino County due to earthquakes near Trona**

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: July 6, 2019



San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman praised the efforts of first responders and other personnel in assisting the public following the huge earthquakes that affected Trona in the northwestern area of the county.

San Bernardino County signed a declaration of local emergency on July 6 to assist the San Bernardino County communities affected by two days of earthquakes.

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman praised the efforts of first responders and other personnel in assisting the public after the July 4 and 5 earthquake swarm, which included quakes measuring 6.4 and 7.1 in the areas of Trona in San Bernardino County and Ridgecrest in Kern County.



“We appreciate the outreach and support from the governor’s office and White House. FEMA has also provided resources to affected areas,” said Hagman.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino County following the 7.1 quake, which was the strongest quake to hit Southern California in 20 years.

Under the coordination of the County Office of Emergency Services, county officials and departments have been working around the clock to assess the situation in Trona and provide vital services to residents.

“Rapid response within 30 minutes from our departments, Sheriff, **County Fire**, Office of Emergency, Caltrans, ICEMA, Public Health, Building and Safety, County Purchasing and the County Administrative Office ensured that our residents received our full support following this earthquake,” said Hagman. “We appreciate the efforts from everyone working on this incident and are doing all we can to assist those affected.”

There were numerous injuries and damaged residences reported in Trona, but no fatalities. The county is working to determine the number of injured and damaged homes. County public works crews continue to assess and repair the road damage and per SCE, power has been restored.

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland\\_empire\\_news/state-of-emergency-declared-in-san-bernardino-county-due-to/article\\_ab5c1b22-a025-11e9-99a7-27be16f706ba.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/inland_empire_news/state-of-emergency-declared-in-san-bernardino-county-due-to/article_ab5c1b22-a025-11e9-99a7-27be16f706ba.html)

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## **Southern California Earthquake Rattles a State Wary of the ‘Big One’**

**Tim Arango and Thomas Fuller, The New York Times**

Posted: July 6, 2019



An employee cleaning an aisle floor scattered with toppled bottles in a convenience store in Ridgecrest, Calif., on Saturday. Credit: Mario Tama/Getty Images

LOS ANGELES — In the bottom of the fourth inning, Dodger Stadium swayed. Rides at Disneyland were evacuated, and so were movie theaters in Los Angeles. Near Palm Springs, pools sloshed and chandeliers at a casino rocked. And in the Mojave Desert town of Ridgecrest, Calif., fires roared, power went out and grocery store shelves came crashing down.

For the second time in two days, a powerful earthquake struck Southern California on Friday night, shaking a large area already on edge, from Las Vegas to Sacramento to Los Angeles to Mexico, rattling nerves and disrupting plans on a holiday weekend. There were no reports of fatalities and no significant damage to infrastructure, but as day broke rescue crews were still surveying damage in Ridgecrest, near the earthquake’s epicenter, and putting out fires.

The 7.1-magnitude earthquake that rattled Southern California on Friday came one day after the strongest recorded quake there in 20 years — and seismologists warned that more episodes are expected.

To a large degree, navigating life in California means making peace with Mother Nature. Wildfires and mudslides are yearly events, made worse in recent years amid climate change. But Californians live in



constant awareness, if not outright fear, of the possibility of a devastating earthquake — the “Big One,” as everyone says. And so as people across Southern California woke up Saturday morning grateful for being spared this time, there was the sense that Friday night’s temblor could have been just a foretaste of something bigger. Officials were urging residents to keep supplies handy — batteries, flashlights, a pair of sneakers — if they hadn’t already.

“Don’t be paralyzed by fear,” Josh Rubenstein, the spokesman for the Los Angeles Police Department, wrote on Twitter. “Arm yourself with knowledge and a plan. Talk about what you would do when a big one hits. I myself just did that with my daughter and my wife.”

The United States Geological Survey reported that the latest earthquake’s epicenter was in the Mojave Desert, 11 miles from Ridgecrest — near where a 6.4-magnitude quake had hit about 36 hours earlier. Since Thursday’s earthquake, the area had been jolted by rolling aftershocks, including one of a 5.4 magnitude that had roused Californians on Friday morning.

“Hold on, it’s going again,” Jade Alexander, the manager of the Rodeway Inn & Suites in Ridgecrest, about 150 miles northeast of Los Angeles, said in a phone interview after another aftershock on Friday night. She said the aftershocks had been coming every five minutes.

Although the area where the earthquake struck is sparsely populated, the navy has a weapons-testing facility, the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, just outside Ridgecrest.

“It’s constant,” said Ms. Alexander, whose hotel in Ridgecrest is less than a five-minute drive from the naval station. “My anxiety level is over the limit.”

“The floor is cracked,” she added, saying that bookshelves, lockers and televisions had been thrown to the ground.

The quake, which struck at about 8:20 p.m. local time, was felt across a much wider area than Thursday’s quake, with reports of power failures in Los Angeles and of some damage in San Bernardino County. Gov. Gavin Newsom of California declared a state of emergency for the Ridgecrest area, and is asking for an emergency declaration from President Trump so federal funds can be made available.

In a news conference late Saturday morning, Mark Ghilarducci, the director of California’s Office of Emergency Services, said power was back on for most of Ridgecrest, but warned that hot weather and winds forecast for the coming days would heighten the risk of wildfires. And Kern County Fire Chief David Witt said that it appeared that no buildings had collapsed.

Lucy Jones, a seismologist, said during a Friday night briefing by the United States Geological Survey that there would be more aftershocks. “It is clearly an energetic system,” Dr. Jones said.

Leena Panchal, a manager of Americas Best Value Inn & Suites, another hotel in Ridgecrest, said people had rushed outside because they had felt unsafe being indoors.

“It was so bad,” she said of Friday’s earthquake and its aftershocks. “I am scared. I have two children and no one is taking care of us.”

Ms. Panchal was seated during the earthquake but said that the shaking had been so violent, it would have been impossible to stand up. Standing lamps were thrown to the ground.

At 8:21 p.m., the Los Angeles Fire Department issued an earthquake alert via Twitter.

“Prepare For Aftershocks,” the department said. “When Shaking Starts: DROP, COVER, HOLD ON!”

In Los Angeles, fire officials reported localized power failures and downed wires in several city neighborhoods, but said that no major damage to infrastructure had been identified.

In **San Bernardino County**, fire officials said that there had been more damage from the Friday night earthquake than from the one the day before. The officials reported that homes had shifted, foundations had been cracked and retaining walls had collapsed.

Tom Heaton, an earthquake expert at the California Institute of Technology, said the earthquake Friday night appeared to have taken place northwest of Thursday’s earthquake. The rupture was about 10 to 15 miles long, and the duration of the earthquake was around seven seconds. Friday’s earthquake was much larger than Thursday’s; the total energy released was about eight times greater.

For now the earthquakes appear to be localized. But for California, one big question is whether these earthquakes occurring in the Mojave Desert will have any consequences for a potentially more catastrophic rupture of the San Andreas fault, the giant crack in the earth that runs along almost the entire length of the state near heavily populated areas.

Seismologists say there is a remote connection between the system of faults that caused this week’s earthquakes and the San Andreas. The faults near Ridgecrest come close to a fault known as the Garlock, which ultimately intersects the San Andreas.

Dr. Heaton said it would be “pretty far-fetched” that an earthquake on the San Andreas would be triggered along this route. But, he noted, seismologists are constantly surprised.

The current sequence of earthquakes could potentially last for years. In the 1970s, seismologists were surprised that an earthquake near Bishop, Calif., began a sequence of temblors around Mammoth Lakes that eventually spread over a diameter of more than 50 miles and included a half-dozen earthquakes of more than 6.0 magnitude. That sequence lasted around a decade.

When a significant earthquake is followed by a related and larger one — as has happened in California in recent days — seismologists refer to the first event as a foreshock. A foreshock and a main quake usually occur within days or weeks of each other, but occasionally in analyzing seismic activity in a region, scientists will identify foreshocks that occurred months or even years before a major quake.

Some notable earthquakes have been preceded by foreshocks, including the largest quake ever recorded, a 9.5-magnitude event that struck Chile in 1960. A 7.9-magnitude quake had occurred in the same area the day before. The 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan, which led to the Fukushima nuclear disaster, was preceded by a foreshock as well.

The 6.4 Ridgecrest foreshock on Thursday was followed by seven quakes of magnitude 4.5 or higher until the 7.1-magnitude one on Friday. And the Friday quake so far has been followed by 15 of 4.5 magnitude or higher.

The largest known earthquake in the area occurred in 1872 and was a magnitude 8, one of the largest in California.

Enrique Lugo, 27; his wife, Irma Ponce, 36; and her 16-year-old son, Alex, were stocking up on groceries in their white truck outside a Stater Brothers grocery in Ridgecrest on Saturday. Ms. Ponce said she was grateful that her house sustained just minor damage to an outside brick wall, a broken water heater and ceiling fans that dropped to the floor.

Ms. Ponce was at home with her son cooking dinner when the quake hit. “We ran outside and so did the neighbors,” she said. The small family had slept in the living room bracing for another major quake Friday night. The couple said they had little sleep because of the aftershocks. “They just didn’t stop,” Ms. Ponce said.

Mr. Lugo, a supervisor, at a chemical plant, said he was on top of a water tank when the largest quake hit. I just held on to the railing,” said Mr. Lugo, who was born in Ridgecrest. “In my 27 years, I have never experienced an earthquake this big here. We weren’t expecting a bigger one, nobody was.”

Friday night’s earthquake came during the Dodgers home game against the San Diego Padres in Los Angeles. The game was not interrupted. But in Las Vegas, where an N.B.A. summer league game was taking place between the New York Knicks and the New Orleans Pelicans, the action was halted because of the quake.

Frank Jackson, the Pelicans’ point guard, was bringing the ball up the court when he felt the earthquake.

“That was crazy,” Jackson said. “I felt like someone was pushing my hip — I kind of leaned this way and was like, ‘Oh my gosh, what is going on?’ And then I saw everything shaking.”

Tim Dorsey of Santa Monica noticed something was amiss when the wine bottles in his home began rattling on Friday night. “That happened and I thought, ‘Oh, aftershock,’” Mr. Dorsey said by phone. “And then it stopped. Fifteen seconds later, it started going again. I hopped up and got away from my windows.”

Mr. Dorsey said the shaking had begun again and gone on for a minute. “It kept getting stronger and stronger,” he said.

Giovanna Gomez of Bakersfield said Friday’s earthquake had felt like Thursday’s quake.

“I was in my living room with my parents, and all of a sudden we started feeling the earth slowly moving,” Ms. Gomez said. “And then it started getting bigger, just rocking back and forth.” She said the family had promptly gone outside and reported no damage, but complained of dogs barking.

At the Dodgers game, fans in the upper decks felt the stadium sway, and viewers at home who did not feel the earthquake themselves were alerted to it by the shaking up and down of the camera. On the field, though, the game went on. “How are they continuing to play baseball?” said Joe Davis, a Dodgers television announcer.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/06/us/california-earthquake-7-1.html>

## Most powerful earthquakes in California history above 7.0 magnitude

Staff Writer, ABC 7 NY

Posted: July 6, 2019

RIDGECREST, Calif. -- The magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck near Ridgecrest, California, at 8:19 p.m. Friday was one of only 12 earthquakes in California since 1857 that measured over 7.0.

Kern County fire officials reported "multiple injuries and multiple fires" without providing details. **San Bernardino County firefighters** reported cracked buildings and a minor injury.

Here are other major quakes over magnitude 7.0 according to the California Department of Conservation:

7.9 - Jan. 9, 1857

Fort Tejon

2 killed, 220-mile surface scar

7.9 - April 18, 1906

San Francisco

3,000 killed, \$524 million in property damage, including fire damage

7.8 - March 26, 1872

Owens Valley

27 killed, 3 aftershocks of 6.25+

7.5 - July 21, 1952

Kern County

12 killed, 3 aftershocks of 6+

7.3 - Jan. 31, 1922

West of Eureka

37 miles offshore

7.3 - Nov. 4, 1927

SW of Lompoc

No major injuries, slight damage

7.3 - June 28, 1992

Landers

1 killed, 400 injured, 6.5 aftershock

7.2 - Jan. 22, 1923

Mendocino

Damaged homes in several towns

7.2 - Nov. 8, 1980

West of Eureka

Injured 6, \$1.75 million in damage

7.2 - April 25, 1992

Cape Mendocino  
6.5 and 6.6 aftershocks

7.1 - Oct. 16, 1999  
Ludlow (Hector Mine Quake)  
Remote, so minimal damage

7.1 - May 18, 1940  
El Centro  
9 killed, \$6 million in damage

<https://abc7ny.com/71-socal-earthquake-1-of-12-70-earthquakes-in-calif-history/5381379/>

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## **Gov. Newsom visits Ridgecrest after declaring state of emergency in wake of 2 major quakes**

**Brian Rokos, Beau Yarbrough, Ryan Carter, Tony Saavedra, The Press-Enterprise**  
Posted July 6, 2019, 7:25 AM



California Governor Gavin Newsom listens as Ridgecrest Police Chief Jed McLaughlin speaks to the media after a tour of the damaged areas in the city with the governor, during a press conference at City Hall in Ridgecrest on Saturday, July 6, 2019. The city was hit with a 7.1 earthquake Friday night after a 6.4 foreshock on the Fourth of July. (Photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the wake of a magnitude 7.1 earthquake on Friday night, and followed it up Saturday with a trip to Ridgecrest, where the powerful temblor struck.

As of Saturday night, no deaths, major injuries or building collapses were reported, according to state and local officials. And roads closed due to splits or rock slides were repaired and reopened.

“It’s hard for the world to know what we’ve been through because by the grace of God, we’ve had no casualties and we’ve had only minor injuries, which is amazing with these two big earthquakes,” said Ridgecrest Police Chief Jed McLaughlin. “Also, our structures have remained upright.”

The desert town, once known for shaking and baking with tiny temblors, has been an active quake site since the 1930s.

“Ridgecrest was ... the earthquake capital of the world, because of all the small earthquakes,” said Egill Hauksson of Caltech.

Many additional earthquakes are expected now. As of Saturday night, there were 3,000 aftershocks since the magnitude 6.4 earthquake that hit the area on July 4. Eventually, the sequence of quakes could generate more than 30,000 temblors, said Hauksson.

There’s a 27% chance of a magnitude 6 quake in the next week, and a 3% chance of a magnitude 7 or above in the Ridgecrest area, he said.

## Feeling unsafe

Lizbet Lugo and her family don't know whether to stay or leave Ridgecrest because of all the shaking and the predictions of future temblors. She's too afraid to sleep in her bed.

"My family wants me to go to Bishop, but I don't know if it's safe," said Lugo, 26, referring to the community where her parents live. "Now I don't know if any place is safe."

Lugo and her children, ages 9, 8 and 6, did not sleep Friday night after the 7.1 quake that followed the Independence Day temblor. Instead, they stayed on the porch of their Whispering Winds mobile home.

About 160 people sought shelter and aid at the Kerr McGee Community Center in Ridgecrest, the Red Cross reported Saturday morning.

Newsom met with Ridgecrest leaders Saturday and held a news conference, thanking first responders and officials for their work. He said he had spoken minutes earlier with President Trump, who pledged his support.

"I have all the confidence in the world the president will be forthcoming," Newsom said.

The governor compared Ridgecrest to San Francisco rising from the ashes of the 1906 earthquake. "That resiliency, that same level of commitment is demonstrable when you walk around this community," he said.

## Pitching in

The Los Angeles County Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team 136 and Hazardous Materials Team 811 were deployed to help assess damages. The Orange County Fire Authority also sent a heavy rescue apparatus and urban search and rescue support vehicle with six firefighters to areas that felt the brunt of the quake.

San Bernardino County first responders reported 911 calls coming in from northwest communities, with homes shifted, foundation cracked and retaining walls down.

Numerous gas leaks were detected in the Trona and Argus areas, according to **San Bernardino Fire** authorities. Firefighters secured leaks where possible and evacuated residents from homes where the leaks could not be secured, the agency announced.

The Ridgecrest Police Department sent out a plea for Trona, saying the community is in "serious need of water." Police urged anyone able to bring a case, boxed or wrapped, to the Ridgecrest Police Department, so it could deliver water to Trona in a trailer.

Trona, a tiny unincorporated community on Death Valley's southwestern border, is 170 miles northeast of Los Angeles and an hour and a half north of the High Desert community of Adelanto.

Even before the two earthquakes, the former company town of Trona was a ghost town, with most of the houses vacant on many streets. Its population is less than 2,000, dwarfed by nearby Ridgecrest, with a modest population of 29,000, just over the Kern County line. Trona's already sparse population may be getting smaller.

“People are trying to get out of town, because they think another quake’s coming,” said resident Jerry Johnson.

The governor’s emergency edicts cover both San Bernardino and Kern counties, Newsom said. Such declarations help to get resources in play more quickly, allowing communities to recover some expenses when disasters strike.

Officials were still inspecting gas lines on Saturday but announced at a news conference that roads in the affected areas were repaired and rock slides cleared.

Both quakes in rural Kern County, which shook Southern California and far beyond, sparked fires in four homes. In the aftermath, a convenience store and a residence were burglarized, authorities said.

The Mt. Vernon Bridge in San Bernardino was closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic while it was inspected following the earthquakes. Caltrans determined it was safe to travel on Saturday and police said it would re-open.

More quakes to come

The 7.1 temblor was centered roughly 11 miles northeast of Ridgecrest, near where Thursday’s 6.4 magnitude quake hit, the USGS said.

Had Friday’s quake struck south of Ridgecrest in the same fault zone, it would have been more dangerous for Los Angeles County, Caltech scientists said.

Some Los Angeles users of an app designed as an alarm for earthquakes complained that the device didn’t work for the Ridgecrest shaker. Caltech officials reiterated on Saturday that it did work, but the thresholds were too high and the quake too far away to register. Makers of the Shake Alert LA app said they would lower the threshold to make it more sensitive.

Lucy Jones, a seismologist with the United States Geological Survey, said the USGS reclassified Thursday’s earthquake as a foreshock, since Friday night’s earthquake was larger in magnitude.

“It will be ongoing,” Jones said. “It is clearly a very energetic sequence, so there’s no reason to think we can’t have more (earthquakes).”

“Prepare yourself for the next week to two weeks,” McLaughlin, the Ridgecrest police chief, said. “This isn’t going to stop in the near future.”

<https://www.pe.com/2019/07/06/state-of-emergency-declared-for-san-bernardino-county-l-a-o-c-search-and-rescue-crews-head-to-ridgecrest-in-wake-of-7-1-earthquake/>



## **Second earthquake hit Southern California in as many days**

**Paul Vercammen, Christina Maxouris, Chris Boyette and Steve Almasy, CNN**

Posted: July 5, 2019, 10:49 PM

**RIDGECREST, Calif.** - Ridgecrest is a town in a California desert where the 28,000 residents are used to earthquakes.

As California Institute of Technology seismologist Egill Hauksson pointed out Saturday, the city was once known as the earthquake capital of the world. That's because so many small earthquakes happen there.

Friday's magnitude 7.1 earthquake was very different.

Jason Corona co-owns a Mexican restaurant that was packed that night.

At first, the temblor felt like other strong quakes that had hit the area.

"It started off low, and as soon as that bouncing started then I think it set a whole new different level of panic for everybody," he told CNN. "It was different from the other ones that we've had before."

Bottles fell behind the bar, patrons dropped to the floor under tables and spilled food made a slippery getaway for frightened guests who sprinted outside.

People in Ridgecrest are on edge, he said.

"We've never had anything like this," he said. "Nobody in this town has slept for days."

'I felt safer outside'

The major earthquake was centered 11 miles northeast of Ridgecrest, according to the US Geological Survey. It released 11 times the amount of energy of Thursday's quake, also centered near Ridgecrest, CNN Meteorologist Brandon Miller said.

The quake swayed buildings and cracked streets and foundations in Southern California on Friday night, sending terrified residents into the streets.

Ridgecrest resident Jaye Krona said the earthquake felt like her "rocking chair gone crazy."

"We had to sit down or crawl on hands and knees to get around because you couldn't stand up and be in an upright position without falling over," Krona said.

Krona and her friend Kelly-Jo Lewis spent the night outside on Lewis' driveway.

"With everything shaking, things are falling. It's just not safe," Lewis said. "I felt safer outside, and I felt me and her were safer together being in pairs."

So many aftershocks

The region has seen an average of one aftershock per minute since Friday's quake in the southern part of the state, according to the US Geological Survey website.

More than 4,700 quakes have occurred since Thursday, said USGS geophysicist John Bellini.



"They are coming in every 30 seconds, every minute," he said.

At least 3,000 quakes above a magnitude 1, according to CalTech seismologist Lucy Jones.

After Friday's 7.1 quake, three of magnitude 5 or greater struck within the first hour, he said.

Gas leaks caused structure fires throughout Ridgecrest, residents reported water main breaks, and power and communications were out in some areas, according to Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Governors' Office of Emergency Management.

Several injuries were reported, said Kern County spokeswoman Megan Person.

Kern County Fire Chief David Witt told reporters he knew of no fatalities.

About 130 residents from Bakersfield and Trona were staying in a temporary shelter, Person said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in Kern County on Thursday and in San Bernardino late Friday. Newsom also requested a presidential emergency declaration for assistance, which President Donald Trump approved Saturday.

"On behalf of all Californians, I offer my heartfelt support to those affected by tonight's earthquake near Ridgecrest," Newsom said Saturday.

U.S. weapons testing facility was damaged

Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a US weapons testing facility near Ridgecrest, said on its Facebook page that it sustained "infrastructure damage" as a result of the earthquakes Thursday and Friday.

"NAWS China Lake is not mission capable until further notice; however, security protocols remain in effect," the Facebook post said.

The air station also authorized the evacuation of non-essential personnel as well as dependents, according to the post.

According to the NAWS China Lake website, the facility is the Navy's largest single landholding, covering more than 1.1 million acres -- an area larger than the state of Rhode Island -- in Kern, San Bernardino and Inyo counties.

There were no major reports of gas leaks or serious injuries in Kern County, Witt said. But calls came in for ambulance and medical assistance.

No power or water in San Bernardino town

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said it received multiple reports of damage as well from northwest communities.

"Homes shifted, foundation cracks, retaining walls down," the department said. "One injury (minor) with firefighters treating patient."

Trona, a town of 2,000 people, does not have power or water, San Bernardino County Fire spokesman Jeremy Kern told CNN. Workers had been restoring power from the initial earthquake when Friday's disrupted power again.

Both earthquakes disrupted the main water system. Officials are bringing in water to residents and fire teams.

No injuries have been reported in the town.

There were two reports of burglary in Ridgecrest, police chief Jed McLaughlin said.

In Los Angeles, about 150 miles south of Ridgecrest, residents felt the quakes, but no reports of serious damage were made, Mayor Eric Garcetti said. The LA County Fire Department reported no major damage, deaths or serious injuries, but said some wires were down and power was out in some locations.

Shaking felt in Mexico and Las Vegas

The shaking Friday was felt as far away as Mexico and Las Vegas, according to the USGS.

The NBA Summer League game between the New Orleans Pelicans and the New York Knicks in Las Vegas was postponed Friday following reports of the quake. Scoreboards and speakers near the ceiling of the arena shook when the earthquake hit.

Quakes are part of an ongoing system

Jones, the CalTech seismologist, said Friday both large earthquakes are part of an ongoing sequence of a "very energetic system."

On Saturday morning, the USGS said the chance of another magnitude 7 or higher earthquake is 3%.

On the other hand, the chance of a magnitude 3 or higher earthquake hitting the area is more than 99%.

"It is most likely that as few as 240 or as many as 410 such earthquakes may occur in the case that the sequence is reinvigorated by a larger aftershock," the USGS said on its website.

Vercammen reported from Ridgecrest, and Boyette, Maxouris and Almasy reported and wrote from Atlanta. CNN's Alexandra Field, Carma Hassan, Phil Gast, Joe Sutton, Sheena Jones, Sarah Moon, Braden Goyette, Deanna Hackney, Dave Alsup, Haley Brink and Nicole Chavez contributed to this report.

<https://www.ksat.com/news/national/another-earthquake-hits-southern-california>

## Friday's 7.1 magnitude earthquake stirs strong reactions on Twitter and Instagram

Kristine Malicse, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: July 5, 2019



One of many cracks scene on the road of 178 east of Ridgecrest after magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Thursday morning in the Mojave Desert's Searles Valley on the Fourth of July and resulting in multiple injuries and structure fires in the city of Ridgecrest CA, JULY 4, 2019 People throughout Southern California reported feeling the powerful 10:33 a.m. quake, whose epicenter was located about 62 miles north-northwest of Barstow, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said multiple buildings in its jurisdiction sustained minor cracks, multiple water mains ruptured, and several power lines were down. No fires erupted in that county. Photo by Gene Blevins/Contributing Photographer.

A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 shook Southern California Friday night, the second significant quake in two days, officials said.

Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones said on Twitter that Thursday's 6.4 earthquake was a foreshock to tonight's shaker.

Disneyland and other amusement parks in Southern California temporarily suspended rides for mandatory inspections.

Reports from several fire departments in other counties reported no major damages, but minor power outages.

From hanging lights swaying to pools creating small waves, people took to social media to record their experience with the earthquake. The shaking was also felt in San Diego and Las Vegas.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/07/05/7-1-magnitude-earthquake-near-ridgecrest-stirs-strong-reactions-on-twitter-and-instagram/>

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## SoCal earthquake: 5.4-magnitude earthquake hits Searles Valley, 1 day after 6.4 temblor

Staff Writer, ABC 11 Eyewitness News

Posted: July 5, 2019, 7:00 PM

RIDGECREST, Calif. -- A magnitude 5.4 earthquake hit near Searles Valley Friday morning, one day after a powerful 6.4 quake hit the region.

The quake is one in a series of aftershocks to hit the area since Thursday's 6.4 earthquake. It struck at approximately 4:07 a.m. local time and was centered about 9.7 miles from west of Searles Valley and 10.8 miles north-northeast of Ridgecrest, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

There were no immediate reports of damage in the surrounding area. People felt the quake in various parts of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange counties.

"It was a rumbling sound that first woke us up," Jay Winkel, a Ridgecrest resident, said about the morning aftershock. He added he felt his whole house shake.

About an hour and a half after the 5.4 Friday quake, Los Angeles Fire Department tweeted that it had completed earthquake mode and gone back to normal operations.

At an afternoon press conference, California Institute of Technology seismologists said there have been 1,400 aftershocks since Thursday's powerful quake. They added that there's a 6% chance of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake or larger in the coming days.

There's a USGS team surveying the landscape. Seismologists said it appears that two faults are involved with the 6.4 quake, which was large enough to break the surface. Most of the rupture happened on the China Lake naval base, where some buildings suffered damage.

Seismologists described what the surface rupture looks like.

"It really looks like a scar across the desert floor. Sometimes an earthquake like this moves the ground laterally, so one side goes sideways relative to the other. In the desert it's hard to see because you're just offsetting sand and tumbleweeds, but you can see the cracks that have a little bit of opening to them," said seismologist Susan Hough.

Seismologists also said the damage in Ridgecrest could have been much worse if it was an older community. Ridgecrest started in the 1940s, which was after California had seismic provisions in the statewide building code.

Thursday's earthquake was the strongest earthquake in the Southern California region since 1999, with people throughout Southern California reported feeling it. Minor cracks, multiple water mains ruptured and several power lines were down after the quake hit, according to the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department.

Firefighters in Kern County responded to nearly two dozen incidents including medical emergencies and reports of a burning home.

Kern County Fire Chief David Witt said emergency responders also contended with small vegetation fires, gas leaks and reports of cracked roadways in Ridgecrest, a city with a population of 28,000.

Twenty patients were evacuated from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital as a precaution amid a slew of aftershocks on Thursday.

By Friday, some homes in Ridgecrest were red-tagged. At the Trousdale Estates mobile home park, one home fell off its foundation in Thursday's tremor, in another home, the floor collapsed.

About a mile away, another home was boarded up after the garage was destroyed by a fire believed to be triggered by the quake.

Despite the moderate damage, many residents were happy that the quake didn't cause more serious problems.

<https://abc11.com/live-54-magnitude-earthquake-hits-socal/5379870/>

## Trona, Ridgecrest recover from 6.4 quake

Martin Estacio, Victorville Daily Press

Posted: July 5, 2019, 6:41 PM



A child walks by a mobile home knocked off its foundation in Ridgecrest on Friday. The Fourth of July earthquake on Thursday damaged several trailers in the area. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

TRONA — Shawn Dodson was still in bed when his wife came in to tell him he needed to get up.

She had just felt a fairly moderate earthquake — a magnitude 4.0, according to United States Geological Survey officials.

Then, just 30 minutes later, at 10:33 a.m., an even bigger quake hit.

Dodson said that when the shaking started, it was loud. He and his wife got out of the house.

“I never sat through an earthquake that big as long as I’ve lived here,” he said.

The magnitude-6.4 temblor that shook Southern California on Independence Day was the strongest one to strike the region in 20 years, USGS officials said.

Its epicenter was located in a remote area known as Searles Valley, which includes the unincorporated community of Trona, northeast of the Kern County city of Ridgecrest, which has a population of about 28,000.

Neighboring responding agencies answered the city’s request for help by sending fire engines, urban search and rescue teams, K-9s and other resources. Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in the area.

The quake forced the evacuation of the local hospital, at least one house fire, water main breaks, gas leaks and at least two dozen fire and medical calls, swamping the dispatch centers there. Viral video footage showed a house burning while a lone firefighter worked to put it out.

While most of the attention was focused on embattled Ridgecrest, the powerful tremor originated in San Bernardino County, just 6 miles west from where Dodson lives, and County officials had to spring into action to make sure their own were taken care of as well.

Searles Valley, with a population of around 1,800, lies in a somewhat isolated area in the northwest corner of San Bernardino County. Trona is located about 20 miles away from Ridgecrest, on State Route 178.

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department Captain Jeremy Kern said that after the main quake stopped shaking, an engine, ambulances, a chief officer and a heavy rescue truck from Hesperia were sent to the site. The heavy rescue is staffed with urban search and rescue firefighters.

USAR teams are specially trained to rescue people trapped in structures that have collapsed and can assess “whether a building is habitable or needs to be red-tagged for non-occupancy,” Kern said.

They also carry equipment, such as a specialized camera that can locate potential victims.

Until responders arrived, community residents had to deal with the effects of the quake on their own.

Dodson said that he and six others immediately went to staff Trona's fire station after the shaking "mellowed out." He said he's part of a team of 10 paid-call firefighters who respond when emergencies arise.

Power was knocked out in the area so the crew started a generator. Dodson said Trona was without electricity until about 9:30 Thursday night.

A cooling center and cell phone charging area was set up at Trona's golf course clubhouse, since it's powered from a nearby raw materials processing plant, Searles Valley Minerals.

The plant was the cause of some concern by County Fire officials at first, Kern said, due to a potential hazardous materials incident. Searles Valley Minerals processes materials such as borax and soda ash from minerals gathered from the nearby dry lakebed.

It also uses chemicals that if released in a damaging earthquake could be harmful, he said.

The safety systems in place for the chemicals worked, and plant safety officials cooperated with firefighters.

Dodson said he and other firefighters began to drive around in their apparatus to assess the damage. He reported a couple water main breaks, block walls that had fallen over, and buildings with external cracks, including a local restaurant.

Water officials were also advising residents to use only boiled tap water or bottled water for drinking and cooking purposes, according to a statement from First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood.

Dodson said this was likely due to a broken water line that feeds the area which may have become contaminated after the quake.

But despite minor damage and power loss, Dodson said he noticed people were out in their yards barbecuing on the Fourth and in "pretty good spirits."

In an area straddling the Kern County-San Bernardino County line, however, firefighters found heavier damage.

Known as Windy Acres, just east of Ridgecrest and south of SR 178, Kern said the area received "most of the impact from the earthquake."

Crews discovered multiple trailers that had slipped off their foundations, fireplaces shifted away from buildings, rock slides and smaller residential electricity lines downed.

Firefighters could be heard doing an exhaustive block-by-block assessment of the damage, per scanner traffic.

Ultimately, no injuries were reported in the county directly caused by seismic activity itself, Kern said.

Officials still warn that a larger earthquake may be on the way.

“There is about a 1 in 20 chance that this location will be having an even bigger earthquake within the next few days,” USGS Seismologist Lucy Jones said at a press conference Thursday.

She also predicted plenty of aftershocks. A magnitude-5.4 earthquake hit the area at about 4:07 a.m. Friday morning.

A USGS map showed over 150 earthquakes since the 6.4 quake as of 6:00 p.m.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190705/trona-ridgecrest-recover-from-64-quake>

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## **Rockslide Forces Closure of Kern County Highway Following Magnitude 7.1 Quake; Outages, Gas Leaks, Damage Reported**

Nouran Salahieh, Erin Meyers and Brian Day, KTLA 5 News

Posted: July 5, 2019

As officials continued to survey the damage following a powerful 7.1 earthquake that hit the Searles Valley region Friday night, there were scattered reports of damage around Southern California, including a rock slide closing a highway, outages, gas leaks, fires and several calls of medical aid.

The quake hit roughly 10 and a half miles from Ridgecrest at about 8:19 p.m., the U.S. Geological Survey reports.

The region was already dealing with damage from the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck the day before. Gov. Gavin Newsom had declared a state of emergency for the affected area.

There were no immediate reports of fatalities in the region, but there were several injuries reported, Cal OES Director Mark Ghilarducci said. “We know that there’s been quite a bit of damage, and quite a bit of impact,” he said.

Many injuries were a result of items falling on people, authorities said.

Cal Fire said units were prepared to respond as needed with any of the state’s resources available, but that as of 12 a.m., the potential for fire is low.

Ghilarducci said that understanding the extent of the damage is difficult because it got dark quickly after the quake struck.

“We’ll get a better understanding when there’s light in the morning,” Ghilarducci said.

Gov. Newsom activated the state operation center at highest level, with aid coming in to the affected area from Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Fresno, authorities said.

### **Kern County**

Highway 178 was closed between Bakersfield and Lake Isabella after rocks tumbled down, covering the roadway in Kern River Canyon, according to Caltrans and Kern County Fire Department officials.

There was significant damage across both lanes and severe cracks in the roadway just outside Trona, according to David Kim of the California State Transportation Agency.

Kim said the cracks are very close to where cracks were found yesterday after the magnitude 6.4 quake.

Rockslides were also reported on the southbound SR 190 and on SR 127, but roads were cleared and reopened, according to Caltrans.

A power outage affecting about 1,800 people was reported in Kern County, where officials said there were no reports of major leaks or a major building collapse.

No serious injuries were reported in the town, Ridgecrest Police Department Jed McLaughlin said. "Nothing but minor injuries, such as cuts and bruises, as the grace of God," he said.

Two structure fires broke out in the wake of the shaking, which were quickly extinguished by Kern County firefighters, McLaughlin said.

"There were several reports of natural gas leaks at residences," the chief said. "In fact, we were inundated with that."

PG&E had repaired all the main gas lines in the city and was continuing to work on repairing the damage to residential lines, McLaughlin said.

There are water main breaks also reported in Ridgecrest.

The city's water system remained intact and was not contaminated, he said. "So water is good to go."

The police department was continuing to field emergency calls into the early morning hours Saturday.

"As it slows down, we will transition into other life-saving measures, if needed," McLaughlin said.

Power and communications are out throughout the community, Ghilarducci said.

"This was a very large earthquake and we know there's gonna be a series of aftershocks, so we want to prepare ourselves to have the right resources in place," Ghilarducci said.

San Bernardino County

Highway 178 is the access road into the San Bernardino County communities of Searles Valley, Argus, and Trona, authorities said.

Because roads were impacted, getting resources into the area has been a challenge, Ghilarducci said.

Police in Ridgecrest were asking for help bringing bottled water to Trona, which was one of the communities badly hit by the quakes.

In Trona, there were reports of building collapses and power outages, Ghilarducci said.

In northwest San Bernardino County, fire officials reported 911 calls from communities about shifted homes, retaining walls down and foundation cracks. Earlier assessments showed damage was more significant than Thursday's quake.



Some residents were evacuated from their homes after several gas leaks were found in the Trona and Argus areas, San Bernardino fire officials said.

Firefighters worked to secure leaks where possible and evacuated residents in places where leaks could not be secured, authorities said.

No quake-related fires were discovered in the region but fire crews will continue patrols throughout the night, San Bernardino officials said.

"First light will bring better idea of damage sustained," the San Bernardino Fire Department said in a tweet.

#### Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles city and county fire departments went in earthquake mode, and both agencies reported no major infrastructure damage or serious injury.

"No reports of serious damage in @LACity related to the earthquake tonight," L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a tweet, adding that the city is sending a search and rescue task force team to Kern County to help with the damage.

<https://ktla.com/2019/07/05/powerful-7-1-quake-closes-highway-in-kern-county-scattered-reports-of-damage-in-ridgecrest-region/>

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### Near earthquake epicenter in Trona, 'it looks like a tornado went through'

ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE, Los Angeles Times

Posted: July 5, 2019, 8:45 AM



Shattered glass covers the ground in the town of Trona on July 4 after a 6.4 magnitude shook Southern California. (Etienne Laurent / EPA-EFE / REX /) Water shoots from a broken main along Trona Road following Thursday's magnitude 6.4 earthquake. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

The small, unincorporated Searles Valley community of Trona seemed relatively unshaken by the magnitude 6.4 earthquake that rocked Southern California on Thursday afternoon, despite moderate damage to the town.

A sense of community is what will get people through this quake, say residents, most of whom work at the Searles Valley Minerals plant or the local high school.

When the quake struck Thursday morning, the remote town — situated in the northwest corner of San Bernardino County, the quake's epicenter — was quiet. The general store, library and a clinic all had "Closed" signs pasted to the doors in anticipation of the Fourth of July holiday.

Christina Sanders, a volunteer firefighter, was at her boyfriend's house with their children when the shaking started. The kids screamed and cried, she said.

"I watched the roof in the garage flex in and go back out."

At first, the children thought the rattling was caused by military planes, which fly there often and whose sonic booms have shaken the house, she said. But Sanders knew immediately what it was — and that she had to head to the fire station.

She drove the streets in her firetruck for an hour, checking in with neighbors who had all lost power.

She stopped at the home of Rhonda Seyrkels, who gave her a thumbs-up. Sanders returned it and continued her rounds.

When Sanders finally returned to her own home, she found a pipe had broken and her house was flooded 2 feet deep with water. Everything had fallen off the top of her refrigerator and nearby shelves, and her 70-inch flat screen TV was face-down on the floor.

“It looks like a tornado went through there and tore it up,” she said.

After surveying the mess, Sanders headed back to the station.

“I just shut my water and power off and just left it there,” she said. “The community is more important.”

That can-do attitude could even be seen in state officials’ response to the quake. A giant crack that formed across Highway 178 on the outskirts of Trona had already been repaired by Caltrans crews an hour after the temblor tore up the road.

By Thursday afternoon, Seyrkels drove to the fire station to drop off spaghetti and macaroni and cheese for the volunteers. The small station is not usually fully staffed, but on Thursday it was one of the few signs of life in Trona, a town of just under 2,000. Firefighters chatted about the damage they had seen and residents occasionally dropped by asking for supplies.

“We just had to let them know we appreciate them,” Seyrkels said, and apologized to Sanders that she couldn’t bring more food.

Seyrkels said she was in Ridgecrest — 10 miles from the epicenter — buying ingredients for a barbecue when the quake hit, so the family couldn’t finish shopping. In the end, three households were able to cobble together enough to make ribs, tri-tip, deviled eggs and steak.

“It was supposed to be better,” she said. “We were supposed to have dessert.”

“The show must go on,” said Winter Wilson, a family member and neighbor. “It’s still about the kids.”

Seyrkels agreed.

“It’s a small community,” she said. “We stick together because we have to. We’re so far away from everybody else.”

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department Battalion Chief Bill Villarino said most of Trona sustained minor to moderate damage. Some chimneys collapsed, and mobile homes were shaken off their bases, he said, but that was the worst of it.

No one was injured, and there were no evacuations, Villarino added, but half a dozen water mains broke — two of them major — causing water to spout out of the ground.

Power wasn't expected to be restored until Friday morning at the earliest, Villarino said.

Aftershocks seemed to strike the area roughly every half-hour, and residents braced themselves for another larger jolt.

Others stopped by the fire station, thanking firefighters and asking for water and ice. But the fire department was also limited in its resources and directed one family to a nearby golf course being used as a cooling center.

The town's usual emergency sites and shelters — a senior facility and the library — were closed for the holiday or had been damaged.

For San Bernardino County Fire Department Capt. Steve Simpson, the main priority was checking in with the industrial plant.

The site produces materials such as boric acid, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate and several specialty forms of borax used in soaps and other industrial materials. It uses chemicals that if released could be toxic to the community, according to Simpson and Sanders.

"It hasn't happened yet," said Sanders, who also works as a security guard and EMT for the plant. She said there are many precautions in place to protect against leaks.

"Our chemicals are secure and did not release into the community, and I can say there are no injuries," according to a security representative for the plant who did not want to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The plant was not evacuated, but nonessential personnel were dismissed, he said.

Shawn Dodson was still in bed when the first earthquake struck. The volunteer firefighter and instrumentation technician for the mineral plant had stayed up late the night before watching a movie with his wife.

She came running into the room, screaming for him to wake up, about 10 a.m., when a magnitude 4.0 foreshock struck.

"She was just freaked out," Dodson said.

About 30 minutes later, the bigger magnitude 6.4 quake came.

"The house shook like I've never heard before," he said. "I've never experienced an earthquake like that." The family hadn't had any plans for the Fourth of July, but that changed after the shaking stopped.

"Well, you know what we're doing now," Dodson told his wife after the quake. The whole family — Dodson, his wife and three children — headed to the fire station to help out.

<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-trona-earthquake-20190705-story.html>

## No new earthquake damage or injuries in Trona since Friday morning

Staff Writer, 23ABC News Bakersfield

Posted: July 5, 2019



Photo by: Elaina Rusk

TRONA, Calif. — Since 7 a.m. Friday morning, there has been no new reported damage to the Trona area caused by the July 4th earthquake, according to **San Bernardino County Fire**.

The Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, located 25 miles West of Trona, is to be closed for at least another 48 hours, per officials.

Multiple state agencies, including the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water, are advising Trona residents to only drink boiled tap water or bottled water for cooking and drinking purposes.

Areas affected by this include

Westend,

South Trona

Argus

Trona Village

For anyone looking for additional help, a comfort and care shelter has opened at the Kerr McGee Community Center located at 100 W. California Ave. in Ridgecrest.

<https://www.turnto23.com/news/state/no-new-earthquake-damage-or-injuries-in-trona-since-friday-morning>

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## Preliminary 7.1 quake rocks the Victor Valley

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News Group

Posted: July 5, 2019

UPDATE @ 9:07 PM – Officials have reviewed the data and confirmed the quake was a 7.1 magnitude as originally reported.

UPDATE @ 8:56 PM – **SB County Fire** said in a tweet they've been receiving calls from communities in north west San Bernardino. Per the tweet, calls are reporting that homes have shifted, foundations cracked, and retaining walls are down. One minor injury reported.

UPDATE @ 8:25 PM – The quake magnitude has been changed to a 6.9.

VICTOR VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A preliminary 7.1 magnitude shook the Victor Valley Friday night.

The quake struck at 8:19 pm and was registered 11 miles from Ridgecrest.

This is a developing story and information will be updated as it becomes available.

<https://www.vvng.com/preliminary-7-1-earthquake-rocks-the-victor-valley/>

## **Magnitude 6.4 earthquake shakes Southern California; aftershock measures 5.4**

Cox Media Group National Content Desk, WFTV 9 News

Posted: July 5, 2019, 10:40 AM

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake rattled Southern California on Thursday morning with dozens of aftershocks following.

The temblor was centered in the Mojave Desert, near the town of Ridgecrest, about 120 miles outside of San Bernardino.

The quake caused evacuations at Ridgecrest Hospital, sparked a number of fires and ruptured gas lines. It also caused multiple injuries and damage at local stores and businesses.

Update 10:40 a.m. EDT July 5: Officials estimate Thursday's earthquake caused between \$10 and \$100 million worth of damage in Southern California, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dozens of aftershocks rocked the region after the 6.4 magnitude quake struck Thursday around 10:35 a.m. local time. Seismologists with the USGS said residents can expect several smaller earthquakes in the next week, "with 50 to 700 magnitude 3 or higher aftershocks."

Lucy Jones, a seismologist with the California Institute of Technology's seismology lab, told The Associated Press the earthquake was the strongest since a 7.1 quake struck in the area on October 16, 1999.

The tremblor prompted California Gov. Gavin Newsom to issue an emergency proclamation Thursday in Kern County.

The declaration means that the state will help the county and municipalities in it with emergency aid and recovery efforts.

Update 7:48 a.m. EDT July 5: There were several aftershocks after the initial earthquake, with the largest measuring 5.4 and centered in the Mojave Desert, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The aftershock was felt at 4:07 a.m. local time was roughly 10.8 miles north-northeast of Ridgecrest, KTLA reported.

Update 6:00 p.m. EDT July 4: Officials in Kern County, California, said all Fourth of July festivities in Ridgecrest have been cancelled due to the earthquake Thursday morning, according to news reports.

Officials have also confirmed multiple injuries and at least two house fires connected to the quake, KFSN-TV reported.

Update 4:25 p.m. EDT July 4: Aftershocks are rattling the nerves of people in Ridgecrest, California, and the surrounding region.

CNN is reporting as many as 58 aftershocks have followed the 6.4 magnitude quake.

The quake shook stores in Ridgecrest, toppling items from shelves and leaving a mess behind.

Update 3:37 p.m. EDT July 4: There have been more than 40 aftershocks after the initial one, at least 5 have been 4.0 or stronger, NBC News reported.

Lucy Jones, a seismologist at Caltech, said there is a strong chance of another 5.5 or stronger quake hitting sometime Thursday afternoon.

Update 3:31 p.m. EDT July 4: President Donald Trump has gone to Twitter to confirm he has been briefed, saying it seems to be under control.

Update 3:18 p.m. EDT July 4: CNN is reporting President Donald Trump has been briefed on the quake and will continue to monitor the situation.

Update 3:09 p.m. EDT July 4: Firefighters were trying to douse flames at a house fire in Ridgecrest, California, one of about two dozen incidents after the quake.

The city's mayor said there are five fires burning in the area and there are broken gas lines.

At the same time, evacuation of some patients has begun at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, KFBK reported.

Update 2:55 p.m. EDT July 4: There are reports of structure damage at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and hospital workers may have to evacuate patients, KFBK is reporting.

Original report: Originally the quake was measured as a 6.6 on the Richter scale, KTLA reported, but was quickly downgraded to a 6.4, CNN reported.

It hit around 10:33 a.m. local time, KTLA reported.

The quake was the biggest in Southern California since 1994's 6.6 Northridge quake. That quake killed dozens of people and cost billions of dollars in damage, The Los Angeles Times reported.

The quake was near the town of Ridgecrest, California, The Associated Press reported. KTLA called it a remote area. But was felt 150 miles away northeast of Los Angeles, the AP reported.

Several aftershocks followed the preliminary quake, KCBS reported.

A seismologist at Caltech during a news conference told reporters to expect more aftershocks throughout the day.

At least 25 earthquakes had been felt since 10 a.m. local time, 23ABC News in Bakersfield reported.

Southern Californians took to social media to share what happened when the quake hit. One person said the quake turned his pool into a wave pool.

Others are lamenting on the mess they will have to clean up.

Kern County Fire Department said via Twitter that crews responded to about two dozen incidents that range from medical help to fires near Ridgecrest.

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department says so far there have been no reports of injuries but there is "varying degrees of damage."

Los Angeles International Airport officials said the airport did not sustain damage and everything is running as expected, KCBS reported.

The quake was also felt as far as Las Vegas, but again no damage or injuries had been reported in the hour after the event.

<https://www.wftv.com/news/trending-now/earthquake-shakes-southern-california/963969132>

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## **Ridgecrest earthquake: 6.4 temblor, strongest in Southern California in 20 years, strikes Mojave Desert**

**Rob McMillian, Josh Hask, Leo Stallworth and Jory Rand, ABC 7 News**

Posted: July 4, 2019, 11:54 PM

RIDGECREST, Calif. (KABC) -- A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck Thursday morning in the Mojave Desert's Searles Valley, rattling nerves on the Fourth of July and resulting in minor injuries and a structure fire in the city of Ridgecrest.

The temblor was marked as the strongest earthquake in the Southern California region since 1999.

People throughout Southern California reported feeling the powerful 10:33 a.m. quake, whose epicenter was located about 62 miles north-northwest of Barstow, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

"It's like you would out of a movie, everything shakes. The whole ground shakes beneath you, the whole house. Everything fell in my kitchen, it's still on the floor. I haven't even had time to clean it up," said Ridgecrest resident Sara Baird.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department said multiple buildings in its jurisdiction sustained minor cracks, multiple water mains ruptured, and several power lines were down. No fires erupted in that county.

In nearby Kern County, firefighters responded to nearly two dozen incidents including medical emergencies and reports of a burning home.

Kern County Fire Chief David Witt said emergency responders were also contending with small vegetation fires, gas leaks and reports of cracked roadways in Ridgecrest, population 28,000.

Cal OES officials said no fatalities and no major injuries were reported. Only minor to moderate injuries and damage were reported in Ridgecrest.

About 1,300 people were without power at one point, according to the Kern County Fire Department.

Twenty patients were evacuated from Ridgecrest Regional Hospital as a precaution amid a slew of aftershocks, nine of which were measured at magnitude 4.0 or above. Many of the patients were transported to Antelope Valley.

Mayor Peggy Breeden and Gov. Gavin Newsom each declared a state of emergency in the city.



"The first thing that we felt was this dramatic shaking. All we could think was, 'protect the children,'" one resident said.

One man said he was almost knocked off of his bicycle when the quake hit.

"It felt like someone was trying to pull my bike out from under me, left and right," said Scott Lynch. "By the time I noticed it, I started looking around and everything around was just swaying."

The Walmart in Ridgecrest was one of many businesses that closed. The store was giving out water and Gatorade to people who were stuck in the summer heat and were without power at their homes.

Grocery store aisles were covered by items that went flying off shelves. Inside Eastridge Liquor, employees said they lost thousands of dollars in merchandise.

Two mobile homes at the Trousdale Estates mobile home park were knocked off their foundations and tilted sideways. They were both deemed unsafe by police. The residents did their best to salvage what they could.

"There's a crack in the center of the mobile home going across the mobile. During the earthquake, my sister went to grab my granddaughter and the tilting of the mobile threw them into the closet," said resident Shannon Anderson.

Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones said a magnitude 4.2 foreshock occurred about 30 minutes before the larger quake, adding that the area near the epicenter experienced "lots" of 5.0 magnitude quakes in the 1980s.

Thursday's seismic event did not occur on the San Andreas Fault, Jones said. The small fault in Kern County "was producing energy for about 5 seconds," she said. "What you feel is that plus reverberations."

The USGS downgraded the temblor's magnitude, which was originally reported as 6.6.

More than 100 aftershocks have occurred in the area since the major quake hit, according to David Witt of the Kern County Fire Department. There was even an aftershock while authorities briefed the public on their response.

More are expected, and there is a small chance there could be an earthquake as large as the initial one within the next 24 hours.

"The aftershocks are very real and the whole foundation still moves, so it is not safe for anybody to go in there," Baird added. "We have moved the tenant to another place. She's with family right now."

Meantime, Cal OES officials said they are going to start working on critical infrastructure and damage assessment.

<https://abc7.com/ridgecrest-earthquake-64-quake-strikes-mojave-desert/5378574/>



## Minor Damage, Widespread Power Outages Reported After Quake

Staff Writer, NBC 4 News

Posted: July 4, 2019, 2:21 PM



Police and fire agencies were reporting minor damages as they scrambled to check a flurry of reports of issues after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake shook Southern California, the largest since 1999.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power officials reported a water main break on Wilshire Boulevard and La Jolla Avenue and power outages in the Garment District, part of San Pedro and about 20 customers in Granada Hills.

Officials in San Bernardino County reported multiple buildings had been found with minor cracks, along with broken water mains, downed power lines and rockslides on certain roads.

In Los Angeles and Orange counties, police and fire agencies reported no injuries from the shaking, but some possible damage and one structure fire.

The LA, Beverly Hills and Pasadena police departments reported that no damages has been called in response to the reported 10:33 a.m. shaker.

The city of Anaheim reported that the city has no immediate issues and the Laguna Beach Police Department advised their citizens to be "safe wherever you are and watch out for those earthquakes."

The Los Angeles Fire Department reported that "all 106 fire stations are out conducting a strategic survey of their districts to determine if any damage exists. Once this process is complete, an overall assessment of the impact in the City of Los Angeles will be compiled."

The Los Angeles Police Department said they have not received any reports of damage or calls for service within the city in relation to the earthquake.

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti said the city was "in great shape," with no significant damage to report.

Officials at LAX said all runways were inspected and no damage was found.

Officials with the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department tweeted that they were conducting an assessment of the region and "no injuries reported, however buildings and roads have sustained varying degrees of damage."

Further north in Kern County, about 150 miles north of downtown LA, officials reported multiple injuries, house fires, small vegetation fires, downed power lines and gas leaks.

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Minor-Damages-Reported-After-SoCal-Quake-512228782.html>

## Magnitude 6.4 earthquake rattles SLO, Santa Barbara counties

Gabby Ferreira, The Tribune

Posted: July 4, 2019 11:01 AM

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake reported at about 10:33 a.m. Thursday rattled the Central Coast, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The earthquake's epicenter was about 7 miles southwest of Searles Valley, which is approximately 130 miles east of Bakersfield, according to the USGS.

There were multiple reports of people feeling the quake in Santa Barbara County, according to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

Multiple people in San Luis Obispo County reported on social media that they had felt the quake.

According to the USGS, people in Santa Barbara, Goleta, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Santa Maria, Grover Beach and Atascadero said they felt the temblor.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department said there were multiple buildings with minor cracks, broken water mains, downed power lines and some rock slides in the northwestern part of the county.

The Kern County Fire Department said crews were responding to about two dozen incidents, from structure fires to medical assistance, in the Ridgecrest area, which is near the quake's epicenter.

Multiple injuries were reported in Ridgecrest, according to the Associated Press.

Several apartment buildings in the Ridgecrest area, as well as the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, were evacuated as a result of the quake, the Kern County Sheriff's Office said.

Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner train announced on Twitter that all trains were stopped due to seismic activity just before 10:40 a.m. Ten minutes later, train service had resumed "at reduced speeds," Amtrak said.

Multiple aftershocks have been reported in the area of the quake's epicenter, according to the USGS.

The quake was also felt throughout Southern California, from the high desert to Laguna Niguel.

Additional information was not immediately available.

<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article232291272.html>

## Santa Barbara County Rattled by 6.4-Magnitude Quake in Southern California

Tom Bolton, Noozhawk

Posted: July 4, 2019, 10:44 AM



A magnitude-6.4 earthquake that struck Thursday in the desert northeast of Ridgecrest opened up this crevice in Trona Road. Emergency personnel from Kern and San Bernardino counties responded to dozens of incidents related to the temblor. (San Bernardino County VOAD photo)

Shaking was felt in parts of Santa Barbara County from a magnitude 6.4 earthquake that struck Thursday in the desert northeast of Ridgecrest.

The temblor was reported at 10:33 a.m., and centered about 7.5 miles southwest of Searles Valley in northwest San Bernardino County, and at a depth of about 6.6 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The area is about 125 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Preliminary estimates placed the quake at magnitude 6.6, but it later was downgraded by the USGS. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage in Santa Barbara County from the shaking, which was widely felt.

Two smaller temblors — measuring 2.5 and 4.0 on the Richter Scale — were reported in the Searles Valley area prior to the earthquake, according to the USGS, and there have been nearly 100 aftershocks measuring between 2.5 and 4.6.

The **San Bernardino County Fire** Department reported on Twitter that multiple buildings sustained minor cracks, and there were broken water main, power lines down and rock slides on some roads. No injuries or fires were reported.

The quake and aftershocks were centered in an area near the boundary of San Bernardino and Kern counties, and the Kern County Fire Department reported that evacuations were underway at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.

The department also reported that its crews were working nearly two dozens incidents, ranging from medical assistance to structure fires, in and around the city of Ridgecrest.

As is customary after an earthquake, local fire departments moved their apparatus out of the stations as a precaution.

Thursday quake is believed to be the largest to hit Southern California since the 1999 Twenty-Nine Palms Earthquake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, but caused limited damage and just a few injuries.

In 1994, the Northridge Earthquake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale, struck in a much more populated area of the San Fernando Valley. It killed 57 people, injured more than 8,700, and caused billions of dollars in damage.

[https://www.noozhawk.com/article/santa\\_barbara\\_county\\_rattled\\_by\\_6.6\\_magnitude\\_quake\\_in\\_southern\\_california](https://www.noozhawk.com/article/santa_barbara_county_rattled_by_6.6_magnitude_quake_in_southern_california)

## Earthquake near Trona

Staff Writer, Mojave Desert News

Posted: July 4, 2019

A 6.4 earthquake struck shortly after 10:30 this morning in the Searles Valley near Trona, according to the US Geological Survey website. The earthquake was felt as far away as Taft in Kern County and the Los Angeles area.

A series of aftershocks in and around Seales Valley and the Ridgecrest area were also reported.

UPDATE at 11:50 a.m.: No injuries reported at this time, Kern County Fire Department is responding to a structure fire and possibly other related emergencies in Ridgecrest. **San Bernardino County Fire** (where Searles Valley is located) reports some damage, power lines down and broken water mains.

UPDATE at 1:50 p.m.: Kern County Fire Department confirming evacuation of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital as a precaution. Cooling center open at Kerr McGee Center, 100 W. California Ave. and Burroughs High School, 500 W. French Ave.

[http://www.desertnews.com/news/article\\_ff4b4f96-9e86-11e9-bd73-27fd0d3daeba.html](http://www.desertnews.com/news/article_ff4b4f96-9e86-11e9-bd73-27fd0d3daeba.html)

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## California earthquake brings scattered damage

Jay Croft and Braden Goyette, CNN/WNEM News

Posted: July 4, 2019

(CNN) -- The strongest earthquake to hit Southern California in 20 years left scattered damage Thursday morning and was felt from Las Vegas to Orange County, the US Geological Survey reported.

The quake, with an early magnitude of 6.4, was centered near Ridgecrest, a community west of the Mojave Desert and about 150 miles north of Los Angeles.

Reports of scattered damage, including rock slides and fires, rolled in by midday.

At least four large aftershocks, from 3.5 to 4.7 magnitude, and dozens smaller were recorded, officials said.

In Los Angeles, the temblor was felt as a long, rolling quake, and buildings rocked back and forth for at least several seconds.

Before Thursday, the largest quake in the area was in 1999 near Barstow, said seismologist Lucy Jones of the USGS.

Diane Ruggiero, general manager of the Hampton Inn and Suites Ridgecrest in Ridgecrest, told CNN's Paul Vercammen that the hotel has significant damage.

"The chandeliers are still swinging," she said five minutes after the quake hit at 10:33 a.m. PT. "The floor rippled."

Los Angeles International Airport said no damage was reported on runways. "Operations remain normal," it tweeted.

"We have no reports of damage to any FAA facilities or operational effects from the quake at this time," FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said.

#### Some damage reported

Trona, an unincorporated community, "sustained varying degrees of damage" but no injuries have been reported, according to San Bernadino County Fire's verified Twitter account.

The department reported "minor cracks (in buildings); broken water mains; power lines down; rock slides on certain roads" in northwestern communities in the county.

Just north of Los Angeles, Kern County Fire is responding to more than 20 incidents relating to the earthquake and aftershocks including fires and medical emergencies, according to a tweet on its verified account.

Highway 178 has a 4-inch crack, said **San Bernardino County Fire** spokesman Jeremy Kern. All highways in San Bernardino County remain open. The area's high tension power lines are all intact.

U.S. Geological Survey Lucy Jones seismologist told reporters, "The earthquake was near China Lake and Ridgecrest. It's in sparsely inhabited area, so the number of people who would have received damage is much lower."

She said there is a 1 in 20 chance that a bigger earthquake will hit within the next few days. "It's certain that this area is going to be shaking a lot today and some of those aftershocks will probably exceed magnitude 5."

Jones said the quake was preceded by magnitude 4.2 temblor about 30 minutes before, which she called a foreshock.

#### Felt in Las Vegas

The National Weather Service tweeted that the earthquake was felt in Las Vegas, adding, "so far no significant damage reports."

A tsunami is not expected, according to the National Tsunami Warning Center.

There have been at least 58 aftershocks 2.5 or stronger, according to the USGS.

He was called into work at the agency's office in Golden, Colorado. "We're getting calls off the hook," research geophysicist William Yeck said.

#### Reactions on social media

A woman on Twitter shared video from "My dad's liquor store in Ridgecrest (11 miles from the earthquake)

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay tweeted, "Been living in Los Angeles all my life. That was the longest earthquake I've ever experienced. Not jerky. Smooth and rolling. But it was loooong. It was so long I thought for the first time ever "Is this the big one?" Damn. Respect Mother Nature. She's the boss."

In Lancaster, one Twitter user reported people fleeing a movie theater.

"Felt like we were on a turntable," user Rudio87 wrote.

This is a developing story. Return for updates....

The-CNN-Wire

[https://www.wnem.com/california-earthquake-brings-scattered-damage/article\\_8f9898a1-2735-5999-90be-daafc5610508.html](https://www.wnem.com/california-earthquake-brings-scattered-damage/article_8f9898a1-2735-5999-90be-daafc5610508.html)

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## 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Southern California

Staff Writer, Spectrum News

Posted: July 4, 2019

SEARLES, Calif. – Governor Gavin Newsom approved an emergency proclamation for the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that hit the Searles Valley area Thursday morning which was felt across Southern California.

The earthquake hit around 10:30 a.m. with an 8.7 kilometer depth, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Originally the USGS reported the earthquake magnitude at 6.6, but updated the numbers to a 6.4 magnitude.

The proclamation frees up state resources to assist areas affected by the earthquake and aftershocks.

- Up to 40 aftershocks felt across Southern Californian
- 106 LAFD stations in earthquake mode assessing damage
- Minor damage reported to some buildings and roads

Many residents across California reported feeling the effects of the earthquake.

The earthquake was immediately followed by three aftershocks with a 4.7 magnitude and 3.5 in the Ridgecrest-area, as well as a 4.2 magnitude in Searles Valley at 11:30 a.m. A total of 40 aftershocks were counted by USGS as of 12 p.m.

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake can lead to damage in populated areas. According to the **San Bernardino County Fire** District, minor damage has been reported to buildings with small cracks, broken water mains, power lines down, and some rock slides. Highway 178 sustained a 12-inch crack west of Trona Road.

The Los Angeles Fire Department tweeted that officials are aware of the earthquake and that people should not call 911 unless someone is injured. LAFD said all 106 fire stations are in earthquake mode and will be out conducting strategic surveys of the districts to assess for damage.

The Kern County Fire Department said crews are working on two dozen incidents of fires around Ridgecrest and medical assistance calls.

Searles Valley is 169 miles away from Los Angeles.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/news/2019/07/04/6-6-magnitude-earthquake-hits-southern-california>