

Living on SHAKY GROUND

HOW TO SURVIVE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sources of North Coast Earthquakes



OFFSHORE EARTHQUAKES

Most large north coast earthquakes have been located on offshore faults within the Gorda plate or on the Mendocino fault. Many occur far from population centers and don't cause damage. Some have been close enough to knock down chimneys and damage buildings.

ONSHORE EARTHQUAKES

The most damaging earthquakes in Northern California in the past century were caused by onshore faults. If located near populated areas, earthquakes as small as (M) 5 can cause damage. Regional faults are capable of earthquakes in the M 6-7 range.

THE BIG ONE - THE CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE

The last great earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone occurred in 1700 and ruptured from Humboldt County, California to British Columbia, Canada. At least 13 Cascadia ruptures have been identified in the last 7,000 years. The next Cascadia earthquake may be similar to the 2011 M 9.1 Japan earthquake. The shaking will last for minutes, and will produce a tsunami that could reach our coastline within minutes and affect other coasts throughout the Pacific ocean.