Earthquake Commentary for May, 2002

Map of recent earthquake activity

Did you feel it?

Send comments and suggestions to:kate@gps.caltech.edu

17:24 PDT, Thursday, May 30

We have recorded and located 195 earthquakes in the last week. Click here to see a summary and map .

17:09 PDT, Monday, May 27

At 6:50 am this morning, a M3.0 quake occurred offshore 10 miles south-southwest of Santa Cruz Island (a member of the Channel Islands) or 31 miles south-soutwest of Ventura. If it was felt, we have not received any reports as yet.

17:35 PDT, Thursday, May 23

We have recorded and located 187 earthquakes in the last week. Click here to see a summary and map .

06:47 PDT, Thursday, May 23

Two quakes were felt in Southern California overnight. The first occurred at 5:52 pm in northern Baja, 65 miles south-southwest of Calexico. The magnitude was M3.4. This quake was felt by someone in El Centro.

Later, at 12:46 am, a small quake was felt in the South Bay area. Magnitude was M2.5, and the epicenter was located offshore, 5 miles northwest of Palos Verdes Point or 6 miles southwest of Manhattan Beach. Felt reports came from El Segundo, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Rancho Palos Verdes.

16:57 PDT, Tuesday, May 21

The eastern part of Imperial Valley was shaken early this afternoon by a M3.9 quake. The quake occurred at 12:43 pm, and had an epicenter 8 miles south of Salton City. The largest aftershock so far was a M2.0 at 2:26 pm. The M3.9 was felt as far away as Palm Springs and El Centro.

17:17 PDT, Thursday, May 16

We have recorded and located 193 earthquakes in the last week. Click here to see a summary and map .

07:34 PDT, Tuesday, May 14

Note that Central California experienced a widely-felt earthquake late last night. The Northern California Seismic Network (NCSN) reported the quake at magnitued M5.2, located 3 miles southwest of Gilroy or 14 miles northwest of Hollister, in the Santa Cruz Mtns. For further information, click on the "Map of Recent Earthquake Activity" link above.

15:30 PDT, Friday, May 10

A M2.8 quake occurred this afternoon at 2:33 pm, located 17 miles south of the town of Lake Isabella. It was felt in Caliente. This quake is not part of the Walker Pass series, but a new location further to the southwest.

07:10 PDT, Friday, May 10

Quite a few people felt a M2.1 in the southern San Fernando Valley last night. The time was 11:24 pm, and the epicenter was located 2 miles south-southeast of Encino. "Felt reports" came from Encino, North Hollywood, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys, Valley Village, Valley Glen.

Interestingly, there was a M1.7 quake in the Culver City area only a few minutes later, at 11:50 pm. That epicenter was 2 miles west-northwest of Culver City, or 3 miles south of Century City. A M1.7 is generally too small for people to feel. This quake was not an aftershock of the earlier M2.1, because it occurred at a completely different location.

17:24 PDT, Thursday, May 09

We have recorded and located 261 earthquakes in the last week. Click here to see a summary and map .

15:42 PDT, Tuesday, May 07

Another M3.1 Walker Pass quake occurred this afternoon at 3:31 pm. The location was 24 miles south-southwest of Coso Jucntion, or 23 miles east-northeast of the town of Lake Isabella.

06:22 PDT, Tuesday, May 07

The largest activity in the southern California region overnight was a M2.8 in the Coso Range area, at 7:02 pm. The epicenter was located 7 miles north-northeast of Coso Junction. This is a remote area, so the quake will probably not be reported felt.

07:45 PDT, Friday, May 03

There was another feelable quake overnight in the Walker Pass area. It occurred at 2:57 am. The magnitude was M3.0, and the epicenter was located 21 miles east-northeast of the town of Lake Isabella.

17:21 PDT, Thursday, May 02

We have recorded and located 200 earthquakes in the last week. Click here to see a summary and map .

06:57 PDT, Thursday, May 02

After a prolonged "earthquake drought", we are now experiencing a small swarm in the Walker Pass area of the southern Sierra Nevada/Tehachapi Mtns. There have been three noticable quakes: a M3.0 at 4:02 pm, a M2.9 at 4:03 pm, and a M3.4 at 11:00 pm yesterday. There have also been about ten more smaller ones. The epicenters are located 23 miles east-northeast of the town of Lake Isabella, or 24 miles west-northwest of Ridgecrest, in the Sequoia National Forest. We have received no "felt" reports so far.

Southern California (north of the U.S./Mexico border and south of 36 degrees latitude) has been without any quakes over M3.0 for 26.6 days, since a M4.4 in the Joshua Tree region on April 5. The last time we had a period of quiet this long was in 1966.

Caltech USGS CDMG