



CENTRAL ZONE OPERATIONS

ALPINE - BARONA - EL CAJON - LAKESIDE - LA MESA - LEMON GROVE
SAN MIGUEL - SANTEE - SYCUAN - VIEJAS
BONITA - HEARTLAND DISPATCH

A-9 EARTHQUAKE OCCURRENCE & PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE

Upon the Heartland Communications Facility Authority becoming aware of the occurrence of an earthquake either through personally sensing a significant event (LEVEL 1) or as directed by the ZDC or Area Coordinator (Echo 1), the “AM Pager Test” shall be used to send the following message:

“HTL in Earthquake mode: Roll call for DC’s on 2A-ADMIN in 15 minutes for damage report.”

Note: In the event the 800 MHz Radios are down, VHF XSD CMD 2 will be used.

LEVEL 1: After fifteen minutes has elapsed, Heartland will begin a roll call of all Duty Chiefs in ascending numerical order for damage report only. This will be done on 2A-ADMIN. If a unit has significant damage that will disrupt their ability to respond to an incident, they are to come up on 2A-ADMIN as soon as possible to inform Heartland.

Most agencies in Heartland have a policy of removing their engines and other rolling stock from their stations and moving to a pre-designated safe location away from the building. It is the unit’s responsibility to do a complete and thorough test of the radio system.

If Heartland Dispatch does not get a roll call check from a Duty Chief from all Agencies we dispatch for, we will attempt to contact them a second time and if still no response we will then advise the ZC and ZDC.

LEVEL 2: Occurrence: Individual stations will report to HCFA via radio or phone if damage has occurred to Station or Apparatus. No contact is needed to report a negative change in response capacity.

All other emergency calls for assistance will be handled in the normal manner

Earthquake Magnitude Scale

There is not one magnitude above which damage will occur. It depends on other variables, such as the distance from the earthquake, what type of soil you are on, etc. That being said, damage does not usually occur until the earthquake magnitude reaches somewhere above 4 or 5. (USGS)



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Earthquake Magnitude Scale

Magnitude

Earthquake Effects

LEVEL 1

5.5 to 6.0

Slight damage to buildings and other structures.

6.1 to 6.9

May cause a lot of damage in very populated areas.

7.0 to 7.9

Major earthquake. Serious damage.

8.0 or greater

Great earthquake. Can totally destroy communities near the epicenter.

LEVEL 2

2.5 or less

Usually not felt but can be recorded by seismograph.

2.5 to 5.4

Often felt, but only causes minor damage.