

# Continuity IQ

from  DSPN

May 2006

## Fast Facts for Our Valued Friends and Clients

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at DSPN. This month's topic is earthquakes. If you'd like to forward this message to your colleagues, just click the "Forward Email" link at the bottom of this page.

### Fast Facts about Earthquakes

#### Did you know....

1. About 1,000 earthquakes with intensities of 5.0 or greater are recorded each year, according to the Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia. Because most of these occur under the ocean or in under-populated areas, they pass unnoticed by all but seismologists.
2. The New Madrid (pronounced MAD-rid) earthquake zone produced 3 large earthquakes during the winter of 1811-1812. Damage was reported as far away as Charleston, South Carolina, and Washington, D.C. This zone is named for a frontier village in Missouri which was leveled by these events which were later estimated at magnitude 8.1 or greater.
3. California's great earthquake of 1906 was estimated at magnitude 7.8.
4. Alaska's Prince William Sound earthquake of 1964 was the strongest earthquake ever recorded in the U.S. with a magnitude of 9.2.
5. California's 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake was 7.1 in magnitude. It struck as the world series was being played in San Francisco, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion in damages.
6. Although California's Northridge earthquake of 1994 was only 6.7 in magnitude, it killed 60 people and damaged more than 40,000 buildings in the Los Angeles area.
7. According to ConsumerAffairs.com Inc., some insurance companies have stopped writing earthquake coverage in Illinois and Missouri due to fears that the New Madrid fault is likely to become active. The last significant movement occurred on January 3, 2006 with a magnitude of 3.6. Strong earthquakes in the New Madrid seismic zone are "certain" to occur in the future, according to the United States Geological Survey.
8. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, there is a 62 percent probability of at least one magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake striking the San Francisco Bay region before 2030.
9. On April 29, more than 300 people attended a "Build Your Own 72-Hour Survival Kit" event in a San Francisco suburb. The event was a convenient place for people to stock up on the supplies they will need for the first few days following an earthquake. Attendees built their own survival kits, which

include food for three days sealed in an industrial can. Representatives from the Red Cross and the local fire department offered training sessions at the event and provided more information on emergency preparedness.

10. "On any given day, we have about 40 firefighters and 16 to 18 police officers on duty for a population of 150,000 residents, says Danielle Bell, a disaster preparedness coordinator in a small California community. "If only 2 percent of the population is affected by a disaster, you're already talking about 2,000 people," said Bell. "Do the math." That means if chaos were to break out, many residents and businesses would be forced to fend for themselves, possibly without water, electricity, phone lines or grocery stores for days, even weeks.

## Brain Teasers

### True or False:

1. People sometimes fall to their deaths in crevices that open in the ground during large earthquakes.
2. A region that has survived small earthquakes is less likely to experience a large earthquake because the small earthquakes reduce the pressure buildup of the underlying fault.
3. The 9.3 magnitude earthquake that caused the tsunami of 2004 was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded.
4. Earthquakes cause volcanoes.
5. A 4.0 magnitude earthquake is twice as powerful as a 2.0 magnitude earthquake.

## Check your answers here...

### Answers to the above questions:

1. False. Sudden movement along a fault may create a shallow crevice; however, there is no reliable account of anyone falling to his or her death in such a crack.
2. False. A moderate earthquake, of magnitude 5.0, releases only one thousandth of the energy of a large magnitude 7.0 earthquake. Moderate quakes may actually be precursors of larger earthquakes.
3. False. The most powerful earthquake ever recorded was the 9.5 magnitude temblor that hit Chile in 1960. It caused a tidal wave that killed 61 people in Hawaii.
4. False. Different earth processes are responsible for volcanoes. Earthquakes may occur in an area before, during, and after a volcanic eruption, but they are not the result of the active forces connected with the eruption, and not the cause of volcanic activity.
5. False. The energy released by earthquakes increases exponentially along the Richter scale. At 4.0, an earthquake releases the equivalent of 6 tons of TNT; at 5.0 an earthquake releases the equivalent of 199 tons of TNT. An 8.0 magnitude quake is equivalent to the explosion of 6,270,000 tons of TNT.

## Readiness Check

### Hard-to-remember details:

1. Do you practice shelter-in-place drills as an alternative to building evacuation drills?
2. Have you equipped your damage assessment teams with assessment checklists and facility drawings?
3. Are your emergency storage bins externally accessible?
4. Have you checked the [earthquake hazards maps](#) on the USGS web site?
5. In order to reduce accounting delays, have you pre-established tracking codes for all disaster-related expenses?

## New From DSPN

### Check these out on our website:

1. [DSPN's workshop focusing on industry standards for business continuity plans](#) will be offered in San Ramon on June 7, 2006.
2. [DSPN's workshop on testing and exercising](#) is receiving rave reviews around the country. It is scheduled for New Orleans on May 11, San Ramon on June 8, and Philadelphia for October 5.

## Contributors to This Issue

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## Comments and Contributions



### Tell us what you think...

Thanks to all of you who have sent us comments about this mailing.

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share? If so, send it along and we'll consider it for a future issue. If you want us to print a comment or submission about your company, be sure to give us permission when you write.

**Paul**

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