

Images from Idaho Geological Survey

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

“IDAHO ISN'T CALIFORNIA”

IT'S THE CRUST'S FAULT

Idaho is not California, but many earthquakes shake Idaho each year. California has large earthquakes on a more frequent basis that cause significant damage and fatalities. On average, about 1-2 times per decade, high energy earthquakes occur. According to the Idaho Geological Survey, large earthquake events occur in Idaho about every 25 years. The Borah Peak Earthquake of 1983 was the last large earthquake event in Idaho.

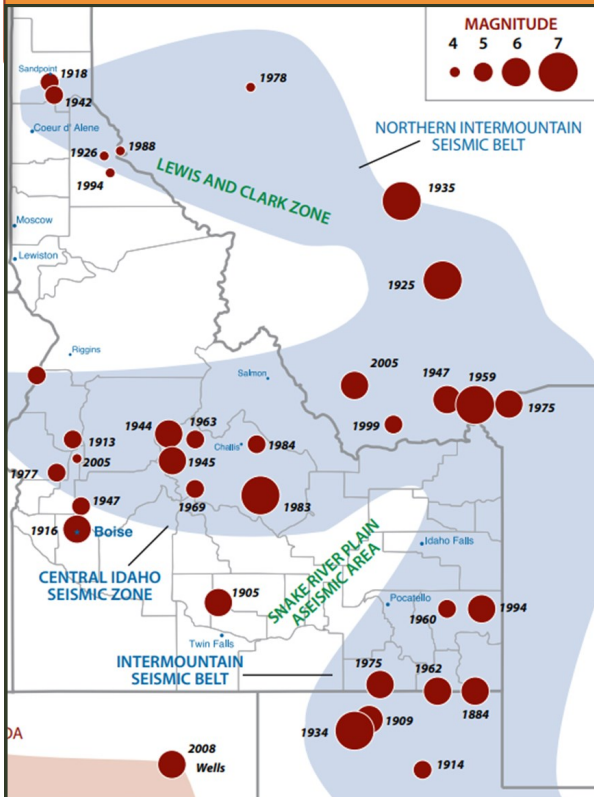
October 28th is the 35th anniversary of the magnitude 6.9 Borah Peak Earthquake. This earthquake still ranks as one of the strongest quakes in the lower 48 states during the past 50 years. Ada County is outside of the Seismic Zone where this event was centered, but residents of the county could feel the earth tremble. Ada County could experience a large earthquake event from nearby faults located in the Treasure Valley.

SQUAW CREEK FAULT

The Squaw Creek Fault is located near Emmett, about 25 miles north of Boise. Geologic evidence suggests that this fault has moved as recently as 7,600 years ago. It is believed that this fault in a worst case scenario could produce a Magnitude 7.1 earthquake. Computer modeling of this event estimates most of Ada County would receive some damage from such an earthquake. It appears that the northwest sections of the county could experience the heaviest damages from such an event.

WATER TANK FAULT

The Water Tank Fault is located roughly 13 miles from Grand View, ID, about 57 miles southeast of Boise. There is evidence of six prehistoric earthquakes along this fault at intervals ranging from 2,000-9,000 years apart. These quakes are believed to have had Magnitudes between 6.7 and 7.3. This fault is in a lightly populated area, but if the fault produced Magnitude 7.0 or greater earthquake it is estimated that there would be damage to populated areas including parts of Ada County.



DON'T CRUMBLE AFTER THE SHAKE

Earthquakes can cause injuries and isolate people from food and hygiene supplies, everyday amenities (fresh water, restrooms), and from one another. You can plan and prepare ahead of time to overcome these difficulties. Visit our website to learn more about earthquakes and how to prepare for them: adacounty.id.gov/accem/How-to-Prepare-Resources/Earthquake

