

# Earthquake Strength

Mercalli Intensity	Characteristic Effects	Approximate Richter Magnitude
<b>I Instrumental</b>	Not felt	1
<b>II Just perceptible</b>	Felt only by a few persons, especially on the upper floors of tall buildings	1.5
<b>III Slight</b>	Felt by people lying down, seated on a hard surface, or on the upper floors of tall buildings	2
<b>IV Perceptible</b>	Felt indoors by many, few outside	3
<b>V Rather strong</b>	Generally felt by everyone, sleeping people may be awakened	4
<b>VI Strong</b>	Trees sway, chandeliers swing, bells ring, some damage from falling objects	5
<b>VII Very strong</b>	General alarm, walls and plaster crack	5.5
<b>VIII Destructive</b>	Felt in moving vehicles, chimneys collapse, poorly constructed buildings are seriously damaged	6
<b>IX Ruinous</b>	Some houses collapse, pipes break	6.5
<b>X Disastrous</b>	Obvious ground cracks, railroad tracks bent, some landslides on steep hillsides	7
<b>XI Very disastrous</b>	Few buildings survive, bridges damaged or destroyed, all services interrupted (electrical, water, sewage, railroad, etc.), severe landslides	7.5
<b>XII Catastrophic</b>	Total destruction, objects thrown into the air, river courses and topography altered	8