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Nevada Seismological Lab reports swarm of earthquakes near Virginia City

University of Nevada, Reno reports several magnitude-3.2 quakes, no damage reported

RENO, Nev. – The University of Nevada, Reno’s Seismological Laboratory reports an ongoing swarm of earthquakes near Virginia City, Nev. since Tuesday, Jan. 21. To date, over 100 events have been located. Four have been larger than magnitude 3.0, in the past two days. There have been no reports of damage. The larger events have been felt in Virginia City about 8 miles to the southwest and in Reno about 10 miles west of the swarm.

“The activity notably increased late last night and this morning,” Ken Smith, seismic network manager and associate director of the seismological lab, said. “We’re monitoring the swarm closely and updating local emergency management officials in case this sequence evolves to a larger damaging earthquake.”

The depths of the earthquakes range from about five to eight miles below the surface. From 11 p.m. local time Wednesday, Jan. 29, through the early hours of this morning there have been two earthquakes of magnitude 3.2 and one of magnitude 3.1. A magnitude-3.2 quake occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 8:30 p.m.

Updated information for activity associated with this earthquake is available at <http://www.seismo.unr.edu>.

The Nevada Seismological Lab, the Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security, Carson City Emergency Management, Storey County Emergency Management and Washoe County Emergency Management are working together to monitor the seismic events.

The Nevada-Eastern California region has a history of large damaging earthquakes and citizens should always consider earthquake preparedness. Information is available at the [Great Nevada Shakeout](http://www.greatnevadashakeout.com) website, www.readywashoe.com or at www.ready.gov/.

“When we feel these small earthquakes it’s nature’s way of telling us that Nevada, and Washoe and Storey County, is earthquake country,” Washoe County Emergency Manager, Aaron Kenneston said. “Today would be an ideal day to walk through your house, or place of work, and do a hazard hunt. Secure bookshelves, water heaters, and items that can easily fall and hurt you.”

As a public safety reminder local and state agencies urge the public be prepared in the event an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue.

The Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security recommends preparing for such an event can start with four important steps:

1. Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency
2. Make a plan for what to do in an emergency
3. Build an emergency supply kit
4. Get involved.

The Nevada Seismological Laboratory, a public service department at the University of Nevada, Reno, is a member of the USGS Advanced National Seismic System (<http://www.anss.org>) and operates a

network of about 150 real-time seismograph stations throughout the region providing earthquake information to Nevada citizens, the USGS, and local and state officials.

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Photo Cutline: The image provided by the Nevada Seismological Laboratory shows the location of the ongoing swarm of earthquakes in Storey County.

Founded in 1874 as Nevada's land-grant university, the University of Nevada, Reno ranks in the top tier of best national universities. With nearly 19,000 students, the University is driven to contribute a culture of student success, world-improving research and outreach that enhances communities and business. Part of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the University has the system's largest research program and is home to the state's medical school. With outreach and education programs in all Nevada counties and home to one of the largest study-abroad consortiums, the University extends across the state and around the world. For more information, visit www.unr.edu.

Media Contacts:

Mike Wolterbeek

Media Relations Officer
University Media Relations
University of Nevada, Reno/108
Reno, NV 89557
mwolterbeek@unr.edu
Media newsroom: <http://newsroom.unr.edu>
775-784-4547

Ken Smith

Seismic Network Manager
Nevada Seismological Laboratory
775-544-8915
<http://www.seismo.unr.edu>

Joe Curtis,

Director, Emergency Management, Storey County.
jcurtis@storeycounty.org
775-742-0138, Cell
847-0986, Office: