Geologists Study Nev. Earthquake Fault

Experts: Fault Could Send Jolt To Las Vegas Valley

KVVU.com (Las Vegas television), 5-11-10

LAS VEGAS -- Geologists in Nevada are trying to better understand an earthquake fault west of Pahrump that has the potential to send a jolt to the Las Vegas Valley.

Crews in January began digging three 10-foot-deep trenches along the Stateline fault as part of a research project.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas geology professor Wanda Taylor said that although geologists have known about the fault for decades, scientists may have underestimated its ability to produce a large earthquake.

Taylor said the fault could produce a magnitude 7 temblor.

Among other things, the research team is hoping to use evidence from the trenches in the Stateline fault to determine the last time it had a major quake.