

3.1 quake strikes near Richmond

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RICHMOND -- An earthquake with a magnitude of 3.1 jolted the East Bay on Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The quake was centered near Richmond at a depth of 3.2 miles, the agency said. It struck at 9:35 a.m. A half hour later, a second quake measuring 2.4 hit at the same spot.

In the first quake, a loud boom accompanied a sharp kick that knocked items off a few walls and startled residents. But no major damage or injuries were reported, emergency officials said.

BART briefly halted service to check for problems on the system, which the transit agency routinely does after earthquakes.