

# **Explosive earthquake experiment this week in Coachella Valley**

**Colin Atagi, Palm Springs Desert Sun, 3-9-11**

The United States Geological Survey plans to simulate and study small earthquakes in the desert this week using explosives and seismographs.

For the Salton Seismic Imaging Project, officials will bury 3,000 seismographs around the Coachella and Imperial valleys and measure the impact of the explosions, which will simulate 1.5- to 2-magnitude earthquakes.

The project also will help study the thickness and shape of sedimentary basins, which affect the strength of an earthquake, according to the USGS.

Experts will analyze underground soundwaves to create images of the Earth's crust, which reveals the geologic structure.

Explosives should be buried at least 60 feet underground and should cause no property damage.