

Series of earthquakes rocks Southern California

Mario Renteria, Imperial Valley Press, 6-10-16

A series of earthquakes early Friday morning rocked the small town of Borrego Springs including a magnitude 5.2 quake that was felt in the Imperial Valley.

According to the US Geological Survey the 5.2 quake hit 12.4 miles northwest of Borrego Springs at 1:04 a.m. Friday. It was located 67.7 miles northwest of El Centro.

According to Facebook comments on the Imperial Valley Press page, residents in Anaheim, parts of San Diego and Mexicali felt the jolt.

The 5.2 quake was immediately followed by a series of quakes in the area. A 3.8 quake hit a minute later near the same area, followed by a 3.2 quake and then 2.9 quake, within three minutes.

Another 3.2 quake hit at 1:33 a.m., followed by a 3.1 quake southeast of Anza at 1:46 a.m. Borrego Springs was rocked again at 1:56 a.m. with a 2.6, then a 2.9 quake near La Quinta at 2:19 a.m. and finally a 3.5 in near Borrego Springs again at 4:14 a.m.

The quakes were part of the San Jacinto fault considered "historically the most active fault in Southern California" according to several reports.

The San Jacinto fault stretches for 130 miles from the Cajon Pass in San Bernardino county southeast toward the Mexican border according to the LA Times. The 1987 Superstition Hills earthquake, which hit about 90 miles east of San Diego, topped out at magnitudes 6.5 and 6.7 and caused \$3 million in damage in Imperial County stated the LA Times.

Borrego Springs has a population of about 3,000 people and is located in eastern San Diego County, near the Imperial County line.

Dr. Pat Abbott, a geologist, told ABC 10 News this morning "That's a significant movement," of the 5.2 earthquake. "That puts a lot of pressure on the adjoining areas and that pressure we're seeing now are the aftershocks."

He said a bigger quake is always a concern.

"Well these are very potent faults, these are faults that can easily do magnitude 7.5, 7.8 earthquakes," he said on the interview.

The California Highway Patrol reported that boulders had fallen onto Highway 78 between Palm Desert and Pinyon. No serious injuries have been reported.