

Is Sacramento Vulnerable to Earthquakes?

Ama Daetz, KTXL.com (Sacramento television), 1-10-10

SACRAMENTO -- California is earthquake country. That's what Dr. John Parrish of the California Geological Survey says when asked if the Sacramento region was vulnerable to an earthquake like the one that just hit the Humboldt County area.

Dr. Parrish says, "Here in the Central Valley and Sacramento we're in a pretty stable area as opposed to the area in Humboldt County." However, that doesn't mean we're out of the woods. Dr. Parrish explains that there are two faults near Vacaville. One is the Kirby Fault, the other is the Green Valley Fault. "In 1892 that fault went off at a magnitude 6.6 earthquake which did some damage out there and was felt here in Sacramento," he says. That was over a century ago, but it doesn't mean it couldn't happen again. And even though the San Andreas and Hayward Faults are more than 90 miles away, a big quake there could be felt all the way out here. When it comes to earthquakes, here's the bottom line as stated by Dr. Parrish, "This is California and they can occur anywhere and anytime."

The best thing you can do is to be prepared. Dr. Parrish recommends having at least 3 days worth of water, food, blankets and anything else you would need to survive on your own.