

# After the quake

## America shaken by disaster in San Francisco

Nation tries to contact quake victims

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Grandparents, aunts, uncles, husbands and friends grabbed telephones and waited impatiently at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Wednesday for the first available flights to earthquake-ravaged northern California and answers they hoped they would find there.

"We are flying to San Jose to find out how our son and his family are," said Jean Smith, 60, of Cape Coral, Fla., with her husband Edward, 62. "He lives in Hollister, the epicenter of the earthquake and we are very concerned. He and his wife have a 3-week-old baby. The thought of something happening to a 3-week-old baby just makes us sick."

The Smiths were waiting to board Delta flight 363 with others, many of them looking nervous and tense.

An earthquake in Northern California Tuesday night killed more than 270 people in the Bay area and left 650 others injured.

"I'm very frustrated," Tim McCoy, 27, of San Francisco said. "I have no idea how my family is and I have been trying to get through for hours. I'm just worried and frustrated."

McCoy said the Wednesday afternoon flight was his third attempt to get home. American Airlines cancelled his two previous flights because air traffic into San Francisco was shut down late Tuesday. SF International resumed a limited schedule early Wednesday, officials said.

Most of the passengers at the Dallas airport grabbed any available phones they could find as they waited to board planes.

"It took me several hours to get through to my wife, but I finally got through and she's okay," said Richard Walker, 51, of Los Altos, Calif., who cut a business trip to Cincinnati, short, to get back home. "I can't get through to the rest of my family."

Walker said the chimney on his house fell in during the quake.

Passengers on American Airlines flight 315 to San Francisco were delayed more than an hour because of a limited flight schedule at San Francisco International Airport.

## Witnesses tell about fright, tragedy during second-worst quake in U.S.

Susie Allen was fighting rush-hour traffic on her way home across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Kim House was walking with her fiancé and Bob Witzgall was taking a shower in his hotel room. Then it hit.

Northern California's earthquake at 5:04 p.m. Tuesday turned a routine rush hour into tragedy, sent frightened tourists and natives rushing into the streets and left victims and heroes.

At 3 p.m., thousands of baseball fans began streaming into Candlestick Park for Game No. 3 of the World Series, scheduled to begin 2 and a half hours later. The first pitch was never thrown.

Allen was amid heavy traffic heading out of San Francisco on the lower tier of the Bay Bridge when the span began to ripple and sway.

"First I thought my shocks weren't working," she said. "Then I realized the car wasn't having problems; the ground was having problems."

"The road rose up to meet me," said Allen, who was heading from her office in San Francisco to her home in Oakland. "I couldn't figure out why the road was at a 50-degree angle to my face."

Allen, 26, stopped her car, locked it, and joined other motorists walking toward a 30-foot gap created when a piece of the upper deck collapsed onto the lower level.

Thomas and Debby Kelly, a vacationing couple from Ringwood, Okla., were on the upper level and took home video pictures, acquired by ABC station KGO-TV. Their shots included one of a small car that tumbled nose first over the gap.

"Ohhh, gosh! That could have been us..." Debby gasped as the red car fell to the bridge's lower level. Then, to her husband, she said, "Thomas, we need to get down there and help!"

Cathy Miranker was driving north on an elevated section of Highway 101 to her home in San Francisco. "It was like bumper cars," she said. "It literally started to buckle bend and bounce. Cars were bounced into the air on the roadway."

Cars tried to stop but the motion kept them running even if you slammed on the brakes."

Across the bay in Oakland, George Donovan was driving his tractor-trailer rig on the upper deck of Interstate 880, the Nimitz Freeway.

"The pavement started to move," he said. "I had waves of asphalt come up over my windshield. It was undulating all around me. It was like a Disney ride."

A mile-long stretch of the highway's upper level collapsed onto the lower deck, crushing more than 250 people, authorities estimated.

LUBBOCK (AP) — A Texas Tech glass researcher and graduate student flew Wednesday to San Francisco to study windows broken during Tuesday's earthquake.

"We'll look at injuries and damage caused by glass falling," said H. Scott Norville, director of the glass research and testing laboratory at Tech. "We'll see how the windows failed and what kind of remedial measures we can recommend."

He said he planned to start in the South Bay area and work up to San Francisco, where news reports mentioned the streets of downtown were littered with glass shards.

Norville, often working in conjunction with Tech's Institute for Disaster Research, has participated in several storm damage surveys after tornadoes and hurricanes. He visited the Pampa area after a chemical plant exploded two years ago outside the Panhandle city, breaking windows for miles around.

In the laboratory, he propels gravel, hailstones, small timber and other objects at glass to study how it breaks when hit by windblown missiles. He said Wednesday he also has run lab experiments that mimic the effects of earthquakes.

The aim is to find ways to reduce damage to structures caused by natural disasters. Norville would like someday to help formulate universal designs for building codes that would lead to safer windows.

## UT expert says chances of Texas quakes are slim

AUSTIN (AP) — While Texas has geological faults, the chances of an earthquake similar to that which rocked the San Francisco area and killed more than 270 people are slim, University of Texas experts said Wednesday.

The Balcones Fault, which runs through the Austin area, was a focus of violent activity some 20 million years ago but is benign today, Ed Garner of UT's Bureau of Economic Geology said.

"Generally, the possibility of an earthquake at the Balcones Fault is extremely low because conditions have changed over time," Garner said.

"The area now has about the lowest seismic potential in the United States."

The Balcones Fault was active when the Texas coastline was only about 75 miles from Austin and the area was a hinge point in the Gulf of Mexico basin, he said.

Sedimentary deposits originally caused the activation of faulting, but

the system has been in equilibrium for millions and millions of years, he said.

Cliff Frohlich of the Institute of Geophysics said the biggest earthquake in Texas history occurred in 1931 near the small town of Valentine in West Texas.

"That one had a magnitude of about 6.0 (on the Richter scale), which means that the ground shook 10 times more violently yesterday in San Francisco than it ever has in Texas since the state was settled," Frohlich said.

Minor earthquakes occur in Texas every year.

Most, Frohlich said, are in the 3-to-4 range on the Richter scale.

There are fairly frequent quakes in the El Paso area, and many are detected south of San Antonio and near Snyder as a result of oil and gas recovery operations.

"But almost any place in the world is going to have at least some small earthquakes," Frohlich said.

## S.F. Quake

(Continued from page 1)

Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner toured the area Wednesday by helicopter.

The federal government normally pays at least 75 percent of the cost of rebuilding bridges and public facilities that are destroyed, and provides low-cost loans. The order covered seven counties.

Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy said damage was "the better part of \$1 billion." Other estimates were in the

billions in San Francisco alone.

Gov. George Deukmejian headed home from a trade mission to West Germany.

In San Francisco's Marina District, where a fire fueled by gas destroyed a block of 12 apartment buildings, about 500 people packed a cafeteria at Marina Middle School for breakfast after spending the night on cots and mats.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike K. Farrell said he strongly suspected people were trapped in collapsed buildings. "We're going to bring in dogs to see

if people are trapped in there. I saw three- and four-story buildings that are now one-story buildings."

Los Angeles donated sonic equipment to help detect any sounds of people trapped alive in rubble, said Scott Shafer, a spokesman for Mayor Art Agnos. Ten people are known dead in the city, according to the coroner's office.

The death toll elsewhere included five people in Santa Clara County, five people in Santa Cruz County, and one in San Mateo County.

Francisco estimated damage in the Marina area alone at \$1 billion. Shafer said damage throughout the city would run into the billions. Most of the damaged buildings were Victorian-era.

Agnos estimated 40 buildings as either damaged or unusable, and said, "The city is well-organized and responding effectively to the crisis."

Agnos described the city's emergency services' performances as "sensational," and asked city workers not at work to volunteer for the Red Cross.

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