# Earthquake Hazards in Lincoln County

Presentation for the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee by Jonathan G. Price Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology





# Earthquake faults occur throughout Nevada, and potential losses from earthquakes are high for many communities.





# Earthquake faults occur throughout Nevada, and potential losses from earthquakes are high for many communities.

NBMG Map 167, *Quaternary Faults in Nevada*, is now available not only as a poster but also as an interactive map (Open-File Report 09-9) on line at <u>www.nbmg.unr.edu.</u> You can use it to locate your home or business.







www.nbmg.unr.edu



• Look for a fault | Find Address Results - 00 Find Address Map Contents 🖃 🔽 Quaternar Street or 100 Front Street Intersection ± Legend Caliente City Base □ 9i10glj\_TC State Nevada 🗄 Base 🛙 ZIP USGS\_aer Find Your Address Bas Gold Hill Austin 50 oldfield 95 ndependence Amargosa Valley gas Ridgeen Searchlight Cima







Display faults, colored by age of most recent movement, on topographic or aerial photographic base maps.

Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Caliente

### Zoom in for more detail.

Caliente



Look for a fault | Find Address

Results

Look for a fault | Find Address

## Zoom out for the regional view.

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The USGS integrates (1) fault, (2) earthquake, and (3) geodetic data into its probabilistic seismic hazard analysis.

(1) Active faults occur nearly everywhere in Nevada, including Lincoln County.



(2) Earthquakes have occurred throughout Nevada.

Magnitude 4.4 28 miles SSW of Caliente on June 19, 2006

The earthquake was not obviously on a mapped fault.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.





PERCEIVED	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	IFIII	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Magnitude 3.2 25 miles SSE of Caliente on Dec. 12, 2007

The earthquake was not obviously on a mapped fault.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.





PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

NSL ShakeMap : 19 miles SSE of CALIENTE-NV Mon Jun 30, 2008 03:49:58 PM PDT M 4.1 N37.36 W114.31 Depth: 8.2km ID:2008182\_252213

ShakeMap from the Nevada Seismological Laboratory at UNR

Magnitude 4.1 19 miles SSE of Caliente on June 30, 2008

The earthquake was not obviously on a mapped fault.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.





INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera.te/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

NSL ShakeMap : 18.4 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV Sun Jul 19, 2009 10:31:50 PM PDT M 3.2 N37.41 W114.73 Depth: 0.0km ID:2009201\_288313

ShakeMap from the Nevada Seismological Laboratory at UNR

Magnitude 3.2 18 miles SW of Caliente on July 19, 2009

The earthquake was not obviously on a mapped fault.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



Map Version 1 Processed Sun Jul 19, 2009 10:47:28 PM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera.te/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Magnitude 3.0 1 mile SSE of Pioche on Jan. 31, 2008

The earthquake was not obviously on a mapped fault.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



Map Version 3 Processed Fri Feb 1, 2008 07:51:38 AM PST,

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Magnitude 3.0 43 miles N of Pioche on April 9, 2008

The earthquake was not obviously on a mapped fault.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



NSL ShakeMap : 43.2 miles N of PIOCHE-NV

Map Version 1 Processed Fri Apr 18, 2008 02:57:22 AM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

	1	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL (cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme





Bails East

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Faults are shown as 1,000-meter (3,281-feet) swaths, inside which geological studies should be conducted to precisely locate the faults relative to building sites.

Look for a fault | Find Address

#### Results





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(3,281-feet) swaths, inside which geological studies should be conducted to precisely locate the faults relative to building sites.

#### Look for a fault | Find Address



Look for a fault | Find Address







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Magnitude 3.2 49 miles SW of Caliente on June 11, 2006

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



NSL ShakeMap : 49.2 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV

Map Version 11 Processed Wed Mar 7, 2007 01:34:10 PM PST,

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Magnitude 3.5 30 miles SW of Caliente on June 13, 2006

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.

#### NSL ShakeMap : 29.9 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV Tue Jun 13, 2006 02:18:05 AM PDT M 3.5 N37.31 W114.90 Depth: 0.0km ID:2006164\_183145



Map Version 11 Processed Wed Mar 7, 2007 01:36:57 PM PST,

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Magnitude 3.9 55 miles SW of Caliente on April 27, 2007 at 8:42 a.m.

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.

NSL ShakeMap : 54.7 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV Fri Apr 27, 2007 08:42:50 AM PDT M 3.9 N37.12 W115.29 Depth: 3.8km ID:2007117\_205434 Caliente



Map Version 3 Processed Sat Apr 28, 2007 10:18:37 AM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	IFIII	IV	٧	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Magnitude 3.6 54 miles SW of Caliente on April 27, 2007 at 12:55 p.m.

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



NSL ShakeMap : 54.3 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV

Map Version 3 Processed Sat Apr 28, 2007 10:23:07 AM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	1	11-111	IV	٧	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violen1	Extreme

Magnitude 3.1 54 miles SW of Caliente on April 27, 2007 at 6:40 p.m.

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



Fri Apr 27, 2007 06:40:36 PM PDT M 3.1 N37.12 W115.27 Depth: 0.0km ID:2007118\_205510

NSL ShakeMap : 53.6 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV

Map Version 3 Processed Sat Apr 28, 2007 10:29:34 AM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	11-111	IV	٧	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera.te/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Magnitude 3.0 54 miles SW of Caliente on July 17, 2007

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



NSL ShakeMap : 56.5 miles SW of CALIENTE-NV

Map Version 1 Processed Tue Jul 17, 2007 07:16:15 AM PDT. -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

PERCEIVED	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

Magnitude 3.1 40 miles SW of Caliente on April 13, 2008

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



Map Version 1 Processed Sun Apr 13, 2008 07:49:25 PM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	1	11-111	IV	v	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(om/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very ight	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Stiong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme

Magnitude 3.1 40 miles SW of Caliente on April 15, 2008

**Near Alamo** 

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake can occur anywhere in Nevada, on a fault that is not exposed at the Earth's surface.



Map Version 3 Processed Tue Apr 15, 2008 01:52:59 PM PDT, -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	1	11-111	IV	٧	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
PEAK ACC (%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very ight	Light	Moderate	Modera1e/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Nottell	Weak	Light	Moderate	Stiong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme



(3) Geodetic data indicate that the **Basin and Range** province is gaining about 1.3 acres of area per year through crustal extension, and that western Nevada is accommodating ~20% of the North American-**Pacific plate** interaction.

Kreemer and Hammond (2007)



In Nevada, much of the right-lateral shear between the North American and Pacific plates occurs along northwest-striking strike-slip faults of the Walker Lane.

Extension largely is accommodated along N- to NE-striking, basin-bounding normal faults.

Walker Lane

40 60 kilometers
Lincoln County has both normal and (left-lateral) strike-slip faults.

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## The hazard: expressed in terms of probability of an earthquake of a given magnitude occurring within 50 years and within 50 km of the community.

	% Probability of magnitude greater than or equal to magnitude					
Community	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	
Dayton	>90	~80	70-75	50-55	12-15	
Carson City	>90	~80	70	50-55	12-15	
Reno	>90	~80	67	50	12-15	
Stateline	>90	~80	60-70	40-50	10	
Fallon	80-90	~60	35	20-25	6-8	
Alamo	70-80	~50	20-25	6-8	<0.5	
Caliente	50-60	~35	10-15	4	<0.5	
Las Vegas	40-50	~30	12	4-5	<0.5	
Elko	30-40	~25	10-15	6-8	0.5-1	
Pioche	30-40	~20	6-10	2-3	<0.5	
Wells	30-40	~20	9	6	0.5-1	
Laughlin	10-20	~5	2-3	0.5-1	<0.5	

Data are from the USGS at http://eqint.cr.usgs.gov/eqprob/2002/index.php. Values for magnitude 5.5 are extrapolated between 5.0 and 6.0.

#### Earthquake faults occur throughout Nevada, and potential losses from earthquakes are high for many communities.

NBMG Open-File Report 09-8, *Estimated Losses from Earthquakes near Nevada Communities*, demonstrates that the consequences of earthquakes can be huge in Nevada, particularly if individuals are not prepared.





Earthquake risks in Nevada are assessed by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's lossestimation model, HAZUS-MH, and the U.S. Geological Survey's probabilistic seismic hazard analysis. These loss estimates are useful in hazard-mitigation planning, in building scenarios for emergency response and recovery exercises, and in helping emergency managers and the Governor make decisions on official disaster declarations after an actual earthquake.



Earthquake risks in Nevada are assessed by the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's lossestimation model, HAZUS-MH, and the U.S. Geological Survey's probabilistic seismic hazard analysis.

NBMG Open-File Report 09-8, *Estimated Losses from Earthquakes near Nevada Communities*, contains HAZUS scenarios for magnitude 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, and 7.0 earthquakes near 38 communities in Nevada.

Uncertainties in the location of epicenters, depths, and magnitude, when combined with changing population and uncertainties in local effects (soil and rock types, assumptions about attenuation, basin geometry, liquefaction potential, and directivity), make loss estimates generally consistent within one order of magnitude (a factor of 10).

HAZUS estimates for total economic loss from a magnitude 6.0 earthquake and probability of an earthquake of this magnitude or greater occurring within 50 years and within 50 km of the community.

Community	<b>Total Economic Loss</b>	Probability in 50 years within 50 km
Las Vegas	\$7.2 billion	12%
Reno	\$1.9 billion	67%
Wells	\$30 million	9%
Pioche	\$20 million	6 to 10%
Caliente	\$12 million	10 to 15%
Alamo	\$5.1 million	<b>20 to 25%</b>

Total economic loss is from HAZUS. Probabilities are from the USGS at http://eqint.cr.usgs.gov/eqprob/2002/index.php .

Estimated total economic losses from a magnitude 6.0 earthquake on the Quaternary fault closest to the community

#### Pioche: \$20 million

#### Caliente: \$12 million

#### Alamo: \$5.1 million

The probability of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake occurring within 50 km of Wells, Nevada within the next 50 years is approximately 9%. It happened on 21 February 2008.



The probability of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake occurring within the next 50 years within 50 km of Caliente (10-15%) or Alamo (20-25%) is higher than for Wells.



science for a changing world





Earthquake faults occur throughout Nevada, and potential losses from earthquakes are high for many communities.

The consequences of earthquakes can be huge in Nevada, particularly if individuals are not prepared.

A. Be prepared to respond.

B. Mitigate structural risks, largely through building codes and avoiding faults and areas of liquefaction.

C. Mitigate nonstructural risks.

Unreinforced masonry building (URM) that collapsed during the Wells earthquake on 21 February 2008

View from back, 20 May 2009

View from front, 20 May 2009



Nonstructural damage often can be easily prevented.







# Thank you!

And thanks to Craig dePolo, Gary Johnson, Christine Ballard, Heather Armeno, Irene Seeley, Linda D. Goar, and Jordan T. Hastings for their work on the open-file reports (OF 09-8 and 09-9), which are available as online documents at www.nbmg.unr.edu.

From there, go to online documents at http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/dox/dox.htm, then scroll down to OF 09-8 or 09-9. Link to the fault map from OF 09-9.







#### **GREAT BASIN SCIENCE SAMPLE AND RECORDS LIBRARY**

Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology University of Nevada, Reno

on the Campus of the Desert Research Institute 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512 Cuttings from oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production wells 6 May 2009



Seismic base isolation for storage racks in the warehouse section, 6 May 2009





4 May 2009

### Large earthquakes can cluster in time and location.

#### Large historical earthquakes in 1954-1959 near Fallon, preceded by a possible large earthquake in 1852

Date	<u>Magnitude</u>	Near
1852?	7.3	Fallon
July 6, 1954 (a)	6.6	Rainbow Mtn.
11 hours later (b)	6.0	Fourmile Flat
August 24, 1954 (c)	6.8	Stillwater
December 16, 1954 (c	d) 7.1	Fairview Peak
4 minutes later (e)	6.8	<b>Dixie Valley</b>
March 23, 1959	6.3	<b>Dixie Valley</b>

On the basis of historical seismic records, the Nevada Seismological Laboratory estimates that

there is a 2% probability that a given earthquake is a foreshock of an earthquake with a magnitude 1 unit higher within the next 10 days, and that

there is a 5% probability that a given earthquake is a foreshock of an earthquake with a magnitude 0.5 unit higher within the next 10 days.