



Quake rattles county

Aug 31, 2011|

PRINCESS ANNE -- A 5.9 magnitude earthquake last week reverberated throughout Delmarva and as far away from the epicenter in Mineral, Va., as New York City and southern Canada.

The earthquake hit Aug. 23 just as the Somerset County Commissioners were getting ready to convene a 2 p.m. meeting of the County Roads Board and were already seated in the meeting room.

"The chairs moved like they were on water skis," said Commissioner Jerry Boston.

Some county employees ran outside when the quake rattled windows and walls and shifted large filing cabinets.

"You could feel the whole building moving," said County Administrator Cindy Ward.

Down the hall, police and other local officials were meeting in a conference room to work on the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan when the quake started, said Tracey Grangier, public works director for the town of Princess Anne.

Almost immediately, everyone's cell phones started ringing and announcements were being made over an emergency radio, she said.

Grangier drove around town to see if there were any problems and found none.

"I think we were pretty fortunate," she said.

In Crisfield, there were no damages either, but the phones at City Hall were busy with residents calling in to find out what happened, said secretary Valerie Swift.

"It scared me quite a bit," she said. "We don't have too many like that around here."

Although no damages were reported in the county, some phone service was interrupted.

"A 5.9 is certainly not a small earthquake," said Michael Scott, director of the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative at Salisbury University. "We have had earthquakes this strong in the east before, but it doesn't happen very often."

The USGS classifies magnitude 5 earthquakes as those that can cause considerable damage and magnitude 6 as

Advertisement

Protect Your Home with ADT!

[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

any earthquake that causes severe damage.

The earthquake is the largest to originate in Virginia since May 1897 and was centered at a depth of 4.6 miles, according to the USGS.

"Here in Henson Hall on campus, we have computer monitors that were on free-standing desks and the computer monitors were actually swinging back and forth," Scott said. "But we have already talked to people outside who haven't felt anything."

[Get Listed Here](#)

Ads by Pulse 360

Salisbury: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes BOTOX Doctors Furious
TheHigherLifestyle.com

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%

If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for 3.01% APR Govt Refi Programs
www.MortgageRatesExperts.com

Free 2011 Credit Scores

View your latest Credit Report and your Free Credit Scores today.
FreeScoreOnline.com

Advertisement

Protect Your Home with ADT!

Click Here to Learn More!

ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™