



Virginia earthquake rattles East Coast

2:00 PM, Aug. 23, 2011|

SALISBURY — Residents throughout Delmarva wandered outside of office buildings and houses Tuesday afternoon as waves from a 5.9 magnitude earthquake reverberated through the area.

Reports from New York City, Connecticut and even those in southern Canada reported feeling the after it originated northwest of Richmond, Va.

“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.”

Geological Survey suggests the quake is the largest to originate in Virginia since May of 1897. The quake was centered at a depth of 4.6 miles.

“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,” said Scott. “But we have already talked to people outside who haven’t felt anything.”

Salisbury Police Chief Barbara Duncan said there have been no accidents or damages reported due to the quake.

Mayor Jim Ireton says he and other city officials are meeting with the Emergency Management Coordinator to determine the city's plan of action.

Matt Likovich, a spokesperson for Delmarva Power, says no power outages have been reported in the area.

Residents are asked to check their homes and buildings for structural damage. Any damage to public property seen before 4:30 p.m. should be reported to 410-548-3177. After 4:30 p.m., call 410-548-3165.

Visit www.delmarvanow.com for more information as it becomes available.

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