

Quake leaves California a disaster area

LOS ANGELES—The most powerful earthquake in 38 years smashed parts of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley into fire and rubble Tuesday and imperiled 250,000 persons below a cracked and leaking earthen dam.

At least 29 persons were killed, 14 of them when the earthquake, "like a great hand," smashed a three-story Veterans Hospital into a 10-foot high pile of rubble filled with sobbing, screaming patients.

An estimated 500 persons were injured. At least 79,000 persons were evacuated from in front of the earthen dam and aides to Gov. Ronald Reagan

said a quarter of million were alerted to flee.

President Nixon declared California a disaster area and dispatched Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to meet with Reagan in Los Angeles Wednesday to co-ordinate federal-state rescue efforts.

Thousands of residents ran terrified into the streets when the quake, centered in the town of Newhall 40 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, shook the area for more than a full minute at 5:59 a.m. PST.

Tall buildings swayed, showering the streets with bricks and chunks of plaster.

Plate glass littered streets. Chimneys toppled. Furniture and dishes flew about inside houses as their occupants clung to their beds and prayed. Two freeway overpasses collapsed, crushing three persons to death.

In the area of heaviest damage, about six miles in diameter and about 20 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, the VA hospital was devastated, a sanitarium was wrecked, and a dam at Van Norman Lakes was cracked and split, causing evacuation of a 12-mile area below it.

At the VA hospital, firemen, on their hands and knees atop the rubble,

followed muffled sobs and cries for help from inside, chopping holes in the roof and then raising the collapsed floors to pull out trapped patients.

The dam was holding as rescue workers frantically drained off the lake behind it into a sister lake, which was itself being emptied into the Los Angeles River.

The quake was registered at 6.5 in magnitude on the Richter scale, releasing energy equal to the explosion of a million tons of TNT. It was felt over a 300 mile stretch of California from Fresno, 200

miles north of Los Angeles, to the Mexico border.

After shocks registering up to 5 on the Richter scale jarred the area for hours afterward and scientists said they would continue.

"There's no place to hide in southern California unless you get into the Mojave Desert," said John Nordquist, an engineer at California Institute of Technology.

Eleven persons died and 40 were trapped eight hours after the earthquake in a Veterans Administration Hospital in the San Fernando Valley. Three died when a wall collapsed in a brand new \$23

million "earth-quake-proof" sanitarium.

Two men were killed when a freeway structure collapsed on their pickup truck. A transient was crushed in a shower of bricks at a Los Angeles flophouse. Nine persons died of heart attacks.

The Los Angeles Hall of Administration roof was cracked and seismic joints buckled from the seventh floor up. The building was reported in no danger of collapse.

Twelve buildings had major structural damage along downtown Los Angeles Third Street. Shattered glass littered Hollywood Boulevard. Virtually every building in Newhall, the center of the quake, was damaged.

"Everything came down around us—the lights, the walls," said Maxine Price, a nurse at the Olive View Sanitarium, where three persons were killed.

"People were running up and down the street, the middle of the street, in every direction—north, south, east and west—and screaming," said a liquor store operator in the skid row section of Los Angeles.

National guard troops were placed on alert throughout the state and called up in the San Fernando Valley to help evacuate residents.

At the San Fernando Veteran's Administration Hospital rescue workers were still tearing at the rubble. "We're not even counting the injured," a doctor said.

Near the community of Sylmar, a 40-foot section of wall tumbled from the new Olive View Sanitarium. Survivors were evacuated to other hospitals or left lying on lawns awaiting help.

From the air, the devastated VA hospital looked "like a great hand had come down and crushed it," UPI reporter Vernon Scott reported from the scene.

Trio start quarantine

Apollo lands safely

ABOARD USS NEW ORLEANS—Apollo 14's astronauts made it safely back to earth Tuesday from man's boldest and most scientifically rewarding mission to the moon and said they "had a good time doing it."

"We have had a terrific flight. It's been just super all the way around," said mission Commander Alan B. Shepard, adding that while there were some problems, "we've had a lot of fun."

Shepard and his co-pilots, Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa, made a bullseye splashdown in the warm South Pacific 900 miles south of Samoa at 4:05 p.m. EST.

The successful end to their nine-day, \$400-million mission put the nation's space program back on track and salvaged the scientific goal of the near disastrous Apollo 13 mission of last April.

Apollo 14 carried out a series of experiments aimed at putting space to work for man and taking advantage of its weightlessness and lack of atmosphere when the United States begins flying long-duration space stations in earth orbit.

"Alan Shepard and his crew in Apollo 14 have shown us what man can do and given us a vision of what man will do in the future," said George M. Low, acting administrator of the Space Agency.

"Welcome Home," the recovery force communicator yelled when Apollo 14 hit the water after its 24,600-mile-per-hour re-entry through earth's atmosphere.

"We're in good shape," Shepard reported. A cheer went up in Mission Control Center back in Houston.

The astronauts landed 11.5 miles west of the International Dateline, an imaginary line that marks the starting point of each day. Thus they technically arrived home Wednesday, rather than Tuesday, but as quickly as they crossed the line, they were back into Tuesday.

Frogmen dropped into the water seconds after the capsule landed, attached a flotation collar and helped the astronauts into a life raft.

The spacemen were given clean flight suits and face masks, to screen out any moon bugs they may have brought back, and they were airlifted to the flight deck of the recovery carrier New Orleans, where 200 white-clad sailors cheered their arrival.

The astronauts looked like men from Glam-O-Rama Needs Girls! 5-9 M-F, 9-6 Sat. Part Time Work—We Want 2—So You Can Have Time Off! Come By Glam-O-Rama Next To Byrd's In Carboro

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Wilmington mayor lifts city curfew

WILMINGTON—A nighttime curfew was lifted over this seacoast city Tuesday, but 600 National Guardsmen patrolled the streets where two persons have been killed in racial violence.

Mayor Luther Cromartie ordered the curfew ended because it was his opinion the city was returning to normal.

His action came after a night of relative quiet. Three fire-bombs were reported tossed Monday night and a man was shot in the finger by a sniper's bullet.

In Raleigh, civil rights activist Ben Chavis issued a "statewide call for all students who have been struggling with their school systems" to come to Wilmington Thursday for the funeral of a young black killed during the weekend.

Chavis, who said he left Wilmington because "he feared he would be killed, maintained the black youth killed was

shot by police as he helped a black woman remove possessions from her home during a fire.

Police charged that Stevenson G. Corbett, 20, was shot to death by a policeman protecting firemen from snipers, and that Corbett was armed with a shotgun.

A white man was killed by sniper fire early Sunday.

Wilmington's turmoil grew out of a series of demands by black high school students for black studies programs, a holiday on the late Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and other changes in school policies. Blacks launched a boycott two weeks ago, and tensions began to increase.

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