



SEISMICITY MAP OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

By
C.W. Stover, B.G. Reagor, and S.T. Algermissen

1983

INTRODUC

The data shown on *t* map and listed in table 1 are for earthquakes that were originally included in a study of seismic risk in the United States (Algermissen, 1969). This data file has been updated to include all earthquakes that occurred in the United States since 1969. The original file have been made, and intensities have been assigned to earthquakes that previously had none assigned. Only earthquakes that had epicenters within the boundary of the State are listed. Only earthquakes that occurred during the time period 1969-1989 are included. Earthquakes that were felt or may have caused damage in the State. Intensity values were updated from data sources that were available at the time of original compilation. Some epicenters were relocated on the basis of new information. The data are presented in the following order: date, location, magnitude, and intensity of each earthquake on the basis of historical and current information. Some of the data are not available for all earthquakes. The data are presented in the following order: date, location, magnitude, and intensity of each earthquake on the basis of historical and current information. Some of the data are not available for all earthquakes. The data are presented in the following order: date, location, magnitude, and intensity of each earthquake on the basis of historical and current information. Some of the data are not available for all earthquakes.

New Mexico has a history of earthquake swarms (Sanford and others, 1981). All except two occurred in the Rio Grande rift. The swarms were in 1849-50, 1893, 1904, 1906-07, 1933, 1938-39, and 1969. The 1969 swarm was the largest and most recent. The 1969 swarm was centered in the area of the 1969 one occurred near Pueblo along the Colorado border. Table 1 lists some of the earthquakes of each swarm, however, the published literature is incomplete and it is not possible to list every earthquake of each swarm.

EXPLANATION OF THE TABLES

The data are listed chronologically in table 1 in the following categories: date, origin time, N. latitude, W. longitude, depth, hypocenter quality and referenced data sources, magnitude, and intensity (Modified Mercalli) and intensity source references. Table 1 has some basic limitations. Earthquake events listed prior to 1965 or for which the earthquakes listed. Prior to 1965 all recorded felt earthquakes are listed; after 1965 only felt earthquakes or those with magnitudes greater than the 2.5-3.0 range are listed. If no magnitude was computed and the earthquake was felt, it was included in the earthquake list. The low-magnitude events located in recent years using data from dense seismograph networks have not been included.

Listed below is an explanation of the symbols and codes used in the tables:

1. Leaders (..) indicate information not available.
2. Latitude and longitude are listed to a hundredth of a degree if they have been published with the degree of accuracy, or greater; however, most historical events have been published only to the nearest degree. Latitude is indicated by a plus sign (+) and longitude by a minus sign (-). An asterisk (*) to the right of the longitude indicates that the latitude and longitude were not given in the source reference, but were assigned by the compilers of the data file. A plus sign (+) to the right of the longitude indicates that the event is an explosion, suspected explosion, recluster, or a monoteonic event; these have not been plotted on the map.
3. The letter code in the HPOCENTER, QUAL column is defined below:
 - a. Determinations of instrumental hypocenters are estimated to be accurate within the ranges of latitude and longitude listed below.

b. Determinations of noninstrumental epicenters from felt data are estimated to be accurate within the ranges of latitude and longitude listed below; each range is letter coded as indicated:

A	0.0°-0.1°
B	0.1°-0.2°
C	0.2°-0.5°
D	0.5°-1.0°
E	1.0° or larger

4. The reference identification numbers in the HYPOTENSOR, REF and INTENSITY, REF columns indicate the source of the hypocenter and intensity. They are listed in numerical order in table 2.

5. The magnitudes listed under USGS and Richter (1946) are the magnitudes determined by the Preliminary Determination of Epicenters (PDE) by the National Earthquake Information Service, U. S. Geological Survey and predecessor organizations. Associated with the magnitude values listed under USGS are source codes and type. Type is defined by the following: 1 = ML (Richter, 1958), 2 = mb (Bartli, 1973), 3 = NS (Nuttall, 1966), 4 = mb (Gutenberg and Richter, 1956), 5 = mb/g modified, 6 = duration or coda length, 7 = m_{SH} (Lawson and others, 1979), and 9 = unknown. The source codes are listed below:

1 = USGS (1964-1966) (see *Source codes and magnitude determinations*).

U. S. Geological Survey, Golden, Colo.
 NI - New Mexico Institute of Mining Technology, Socorro, N. Mex.
 NT - Nettie, U. O. Hollister, U. S. Geological Survey, 1979, *Seismological Society of America Bulletin*, v. 69, no. 3, p. 893-909.
 R - Rogers, A. R., and Niekirk, A., 1979, *Seismological Society of America*, v. 69, no. 3, p. 643-663.
 TG - Taggart, James, and Baldwin, Frank, 1982, *New Mexico Geology*, v. 4, no. 4, p. 30-32.
 TUG - Taggart, James, 1982, *U. S. Geological Survey (unpub. data)*.
 Asterisk (*) in the INTENSITY, NI column indicates that the intensity was assigned by the compiler on the basis of the available data at the time the catalog was compiled.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank Stuart A. Northrop for allowing us access to his unpublished earthquake file and to James N. Taggart for his help in accumulating the data for the 1938-39 and 1966 swarms.

REFERENCES

Algermissen, S. T., 1969, Seismic risk studies in the United States: Fourth World Conference on Earthquake Engineering, Santiago, Chile, January 13-18, 1969, Proceedings, v. 1, p. 14-27.

Bath, Markus, 1966, Earthquake energy and magnitude, in *Physics and Chemistry of the Earth*, v. 7: Oxford and New York, Pergamon Press, p. 115-165.

Gutenberg, Beno, 1945, Amplitudes of surface waves and magnitudes of shallow earthquakes:

1. Geological Society of America Bulletin, 55, no. 1, p. 342.
 2. Catalogue of the Richter Scale Earthquake, 1969, Magnitude and location of earthquakes: *Annali di Geofisica*, v. 9, no. 1, p. 1-15.
 3. Lawson, J. E., Jr., Lutz, R. V., DeJoria, R. L., and Foster, P. H., 1979, Inventory, detection, and catalog of Oklahoma earthquakes: Norman, Okla.: Oklahoma Geological Survey, text accompanying CD-19, 15 p.
 4. Richter, C. W., 1957, Seismic wave attenuation and magnitude relations for eastern North America: *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 62, no. 2, p. 81-95.
 5. Richter, C. F., 1958, *Elementary seismology*. San Francisco, W. B. Freeman and Co., Inc., 768 p.
 6. Sanford, R. C., Olsen, H. B., and Jachka, L. H., 1981, Earthquakes in New Mexico, 1849-1971: *New Mexico Geological Survey Bulletin*, 120, p. 1-10.
 7. Richter, C. F., and Nunn, H. R., 1967, Modified Mercalli intensity scale of 1931: *Seismological Society of America Bulletin*, v. 21, no. 4, p. 277-283.

MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY SCALE OF 1931

I. Not felt - or, except rarely under especially favorable circumstances. Under certain conditions, at and outside the boundary of the area in which a great shock is felt: sometimes birds, animals, reported uneasy or disturbed; sometimes dizziness or nausea experienced; sometimes trees, structures, liquids, bodies of water, may sway--doors may swing, very slowly.

ii. Felt indoors by few, especially on upper floors, or by sensitive, or nervous persons. Also, as in grade 1, but often more noticeably: sometimes hanging objects may swing slightly. Sometimes people, especially those who are nervous, liquids, bodies of water, may sway, doors may swing, very slowly; sometimes birds, animals, reported uneasy or disturbed; sometimes dizziness or nausea experienced.

iii. Felt indoors by several, motion usually rapid vibration. Sometimes not recognized to be an earthquake at first. Duration estimated in some cases. Vibration like that due to passing light rail train, or heavy trucks some distance away. Hanging objects may swing slightly. Movement may be apparent on upper levels of tall structures. Rocked standing motor cars slightly.

IV. Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few. Awakened few, especially light sleepers. Frightened no one, unless apprehensive from previous experience. Vibration like that due to passing of heavy or heavily loaded trucks. Sensation like heavy body striking building or falling of heavy objects inside. Rattling of dishes, windows, doors; glassware and crockery clink and clash. Creaking of walls, frame, especially in the upper range of this grade. Hanging objects swung, in numerous instances. Ignored by many, especially those who are not particularly sensitive.

V. Felt indoors by practically all, outdoors by many or most: outdoors direction estimated. Awakened many, or most. Frightened few—light excitement, a few ran. Outdoor. Frightened few. Bored many. Bored some, glad to be glad, but not so intense. Crammed windows—in some cases, but not generally. Overturned vases, small or unstable objects, in many instances, with occasional fall. Hanging objects, doors, swung generally or considerably. Knocked pictures against walls, or swung signs and placards. Stopped, or slowed, many. Stopped, or slowed, many. Stopped, started or ran fast, or slow. Moved small objects, furnishings, the latter to light extent. Spilled liquids in small amounts from well-filled open containers lying on open vessels slightly. Mocked stalling motor cars noticeably.

VII. Felt by all, indoors and outdoors. Frightened many, excitement general, some alarm, many ran outdoors. Awakened all. Persons made to move unsteadily. Trees, bushes, alders slightly to moderate swayed. Liquid wet in strong motion. Small bells rang—church, chapel, school, etc., Dances, music, whistles, etc., heard faintly. Many persons came about. Cracked plaster somewhat, especially fine cracks chimneys in some instances. Broke dishes, glassware, in considerable quantity, also some windows. Fall of brick-kilns, bookshelves, pictures, overturned furniture in many instances. Moved furnishings of moderately heavy kind.

Highly dis-agree able, all ran out of the door. Some, or many, found it
impossible to driving the car over the potholes. Trees blow down by
slaken noticeably to strongly. Waves on ponds, lakes, and running water.
Water turbid from mud stirred up. Incurring to some extent of sand or gravel strange banks. Rang
large church bells, etc. Suspended objects made to quiver. Damage negligible in
the case of the roof of the house. the house is not in danger of falling down.
Ordinary buildings, considerable in poorly built or badly designed buildings.
etc. houses, old walls (especially where laid up without mortar), spires, etc.
Broken down chimneys. the exterior walls are in some danger. Half of
chimneys are in danger of falling down. the chimneys are in danger of falling down.
considerable to large amount of the stucco. the stucco is in danger of falling down.
same extent. Shock down loosened brickwork and tiles. Broke weak chimneys at the
top.

roof-line (sometimes damaging roofs). Fall of cornices from towers and high chimneys. Damage to ornate furniture, especially heavy furniture, with damage from breaking. Damage considerable to concrete irrigation ditches.

VI. Night general-alarm approaches panic. Disturbed persons driving motor cars. Trees shaken strongly-branches broken off, especially palm trees. Ejected mud and small amounts. Changes: temporary, permanent; in flow of springs and wells; dry wells renewed flow; in temperature of spring and well waters. Damage slight in structures (brick) built especially to withstand earthquakes. Considerable in structures of adobe, mud, and stone, especially in adobe, mud, and stone, which tumbled down, wooden houses in some cases; threw out panel walls in frame structures,

IX. Panic general. Cracked ground conspicuously. Damage considerable in (masonry) structures built especially to withstand earthquakes: Threw out of plumb some wood-frame houses built especially to withstand earthquakes; great in substantial (masonry) buildings, some collapse in large part; or wholly shifted frame buildings off foundations, racked frames; serious to reservoirs; underground pipes sometimes broken.

X. Cracked ground, especially when loose and wet, up to widths of several inches; fissures up to a yard in width run parallel to canal and stream banks. Landslides occur on steep slopes from 10 to 20 feet high. Shallow cracks in the soil, especially on beaches and flat land. Changed level of water in wells. Throw water on banks of canals, levees, rivers, etc. Damage serious to dams, dikes, embankments. Severe to well-built wood structures and bridges, some destroyed. Developed dangerous cracks in excellent brick and concrete buildings. Cracks in concrete structures, steel reinforcement, and railroad rails slightly. Tore apart, or crushed ended, pipe lines buried in earth. Open cracks and broad wavy folds in cement pavements and asphalt road surfaces.

XI. Disturbances in ground may be widespread, varying with ground material. Broad

	<p>fissures, water slumps, and land slips in soft, wet ground. Ejected water in large amounts charged with sand and mud. Caused sea-waves ("tidal" waves) of significant force. Damaged or destroyed structures especially near shore.</p> <p>Great to dozens, dikes, embankments often for long distances. Few, if any (masonry) structures remained standing. Destroyed large well-built bridges by the wrecking of supporting piers, or pillars. Affected yielding wooden bridges less. Bent railroad rails grossly, and thrust them aside. Put pipe lines buried in earth completely out of service.</p>
XII.	<p>Damage total—practically all works of construction damaged greatly or destroyed. Structures of concrete or masonry were seriously damaged or destroyed. Falls of masonry were common.</p>

of rock of significant character, slumping of river banks, etc., numerous and extensive. Wrenched loose, tore off, large rock masses. Fault slips in firm rock, with notable horizontal and vertical offset displacements. Water channels, surface and underground, disturbed and modified greatly. Dammed lakes, produced waterfalls, deflected rivers, etc. Waves seen on ground surfaces (actually seen, probably, in some cases). Distorted lines of sight and level. Three objects upward into the air.

Table 1.—Chronological listing of earthquakes for the State of New Mexico

[illegible]

Table 2.--List of data sources

- [illegible]

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1983

For sale by Branch of Distributor
Box 25296, Federal Center, D.C. 20546

1983s

c.1