

EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDE SCALE

MAGNITUDE	CATEGORY	TYPICAL EFFECTS
2.4 or less	Micro	Generally not felt, but recorded by seismographs. Millions occur annually.
2.5 to 3.9	Minor	Often felt by people, but very rarely causes structural damage.
4.0 to 4.9	Light	Noticeable shaking of indoor items and rattling noises. Significant damage unlikely.
5.0 to 5.9	Moderate	Can cause major damage to poorly constructed buildings. Felt by everyone.
6.0 to 6.9	Strong	Can be destructive in areas up to 160 kilometers (100 miles) across in populated areas.
7.0 to 7.9	Major	Can cause serious damage over larger areas. Occurs about 20 times per year.
8.0 or plus	Great	Can cause extremely serious damage in communities several hundred miles across.

Reference Chart: Richter Magnitude Scale / Moment Magnitude Scale Equivalent