

Fuerte temblor en RD

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - Un temblor de tierra de una intensidad de 6.3 en la escala Richter sacudió a las 11:10 de la mañana de ayer la República Dominicana, provocando gran pánico pero sin daños ni víctimas, informaron la Oficina de Sismología Nacional y la Defensa Civil.

La Defensa Civil dijo que recibió informes de todas las regiones del país sobre el temblor.

El movimiento provocó gran pánico entre empleados de oficinas públicas y privadas, que abandonaron los centros de trabajo y salieron a las calles.

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D.R. quake hits 5.2 on Richter, is felt here

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A strong earthquake in the Dominican Republic downed telephone poles and sent people fleeing into the streets of Santo Domingo Thursday, but no injuries were reported and damage was slight.

The tremor, which registered 5.2 on the Richter scale, struck about 40 miles northeast of Santo Domingo at 11:15 a.m., said officials of the Seismic Network at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus.

Residents throughout the west coast of Puerto Rico felt the jolt, but no damages were reported.

Allen Smith, head of the UPR Mayaguez geology department, said the epicenter was at 18.8 degrees north latitude and 69.4 degrees west longitude at a depth of 98 kilometers.

Smith said the Dominican Republic has a seismic network, but officials there could not locate the tremor.

"They called us to say they were having problems, and we gave them the information," said Smith.

Dominican Civil Defense officials said the quake was felt throughout the island, The Associated Press reported. Trees were downed in the southeastern province of San Pedro de Macoris, but there were no other reports of damage.

In Santo Domingo, office workers rushed from buildings.

A quake rated between 5.0 and 6.0 on the Richter scale can cause considerable damage. The scale measures the strength of a quake based on ground motion. Each increase of one whole number indicates 10 times more force.

A quake of magnitude 2 is the smallest normally felt by humans.

On Oct. 2, an earthquake of magnitude 4.5 occurred off Humacao and was felt in most of Puerto Rico and St. Thomas.

On Sept. 17, two tremors shook the region, one in the Mona Passage and the other in the eastern Caribbean.

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