

Temblor sacude a la Isla

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De El Nuevo Día

UN TEMBLOR de 4.5 grados de intensidad en la escala de Richter ocurrió ayer a las 2:35 p.m., confirmó ayer un portavoz de la red sísmica con sede en el Recinto de Mayagüez de la Universidad de Puerto Rico.

Su epicentro fue localizado en 18.1 grados norte y 65.8 grados oeste en el área de las Islas Vírgenes y a unas 30 millas al este de Humacao.

El epicentro se encontraba también a 165 km de profundidad del suelo marítimo.

Alan Smith, director del departamento

de geología del RUM, indicó que no tenía conocimiento de falla alguna particular en el lugar, aunque en el pasado el área ha estado activa sísmicamente.

Las oficinas de la Defensa Civil en Humacao, como las de Ponce, Mayagüez, Orocovis y San Juan indicaron que no habían recibido informes sobre daños o víctimas.

POR SU PARTE, un reportero del Virgin Islands Daily News confirmó a este diario que los efectos del movimiento también fueron mínimos en las Islas Vírgenes.

El pasado 18 de septiembre se registraron dos temblores de 4.6 y 4.7 en la escala de Richter.



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Tremor registering 4.5 shakes island

By MELBA FERRER
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A tremor that registered 4.5 on the Richter scale gave the island a jolt Monday, causing some concern but no damages.

"I let out a scream . . . I even thought about rushing down the emergency stairs," said Migdalia Cabrera, a receptionist on the 19th floor of the Banco Popular Center in Hato Rey.

Cabrera said office furniture shook, but no damage was done.

The Seismic Network in Mayaguez said the tremor occurred at 2:35 p.m. at 18.1

degrees north latitude and 65.8 degrees west longitude, just off Humacao. It lasted five seconds.

The tremor was felt in most of Puerto Rico, especially in the eastern part and San Juan, and even in St. Thomas and St. Croix.

The Richter scale measures energy released by an earthquake. The scale is based on a reading from one to 10. Every increase of a number means the ground motion is 10 times greater.

A quake of magnitude 4.5 can cause moderate damage. No damage was reported Monday, but the jolt did rattle furniture and walls — and people, especially those in tall buildings.

Everlidys Rodríguez Pacheco, who works in the Planning Board's Personnel Office on the 12th floor of one of the Minillas buildings in Santurce, did not panic, but said she considered hiding under her desk.

"Some people screamed. I just moved a waste basket to one side in case I had to get under the desk," said Rodríguez. "But as I thought that, the tremor had stopped."

On Sept. 17, Puerto Rico was shaken by an earthquake in the Mona Passage of magnitude 4.6. Just 20 minutes later, the eastern Caribbean was jolted by a tremor of magnitude 4.7. The Seismic Network said the two tremors were unrelated.