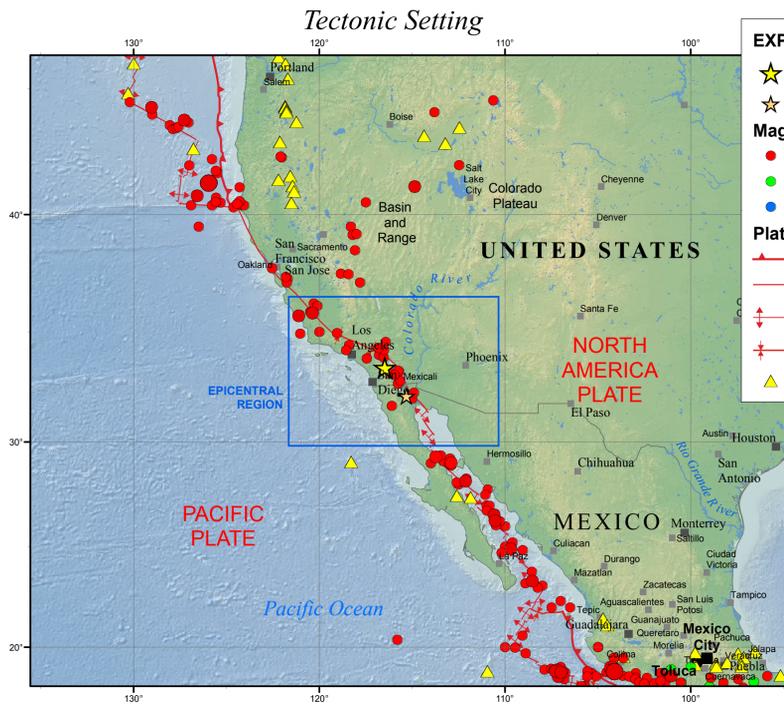
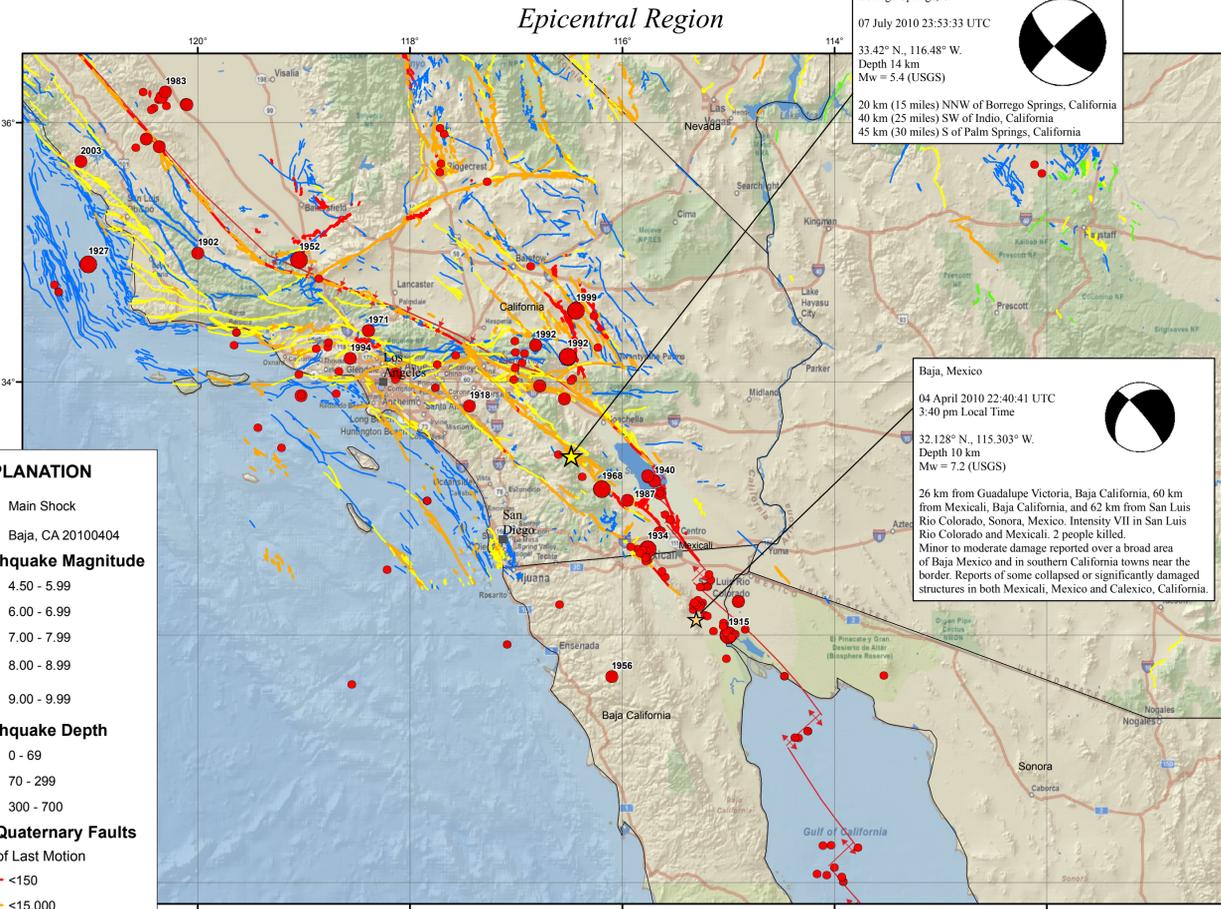


# M5.4 Southern California Earthquake of 7 July 2010



**EXPLANATION**

- ★ Main Shock
- ★ Baja, CA 20100404
- Mag ≥ 6.0
  - 0 - 69 km
  - 70 - 299
  - 300 - 600
- Plate Boundaries
  - Subduction
  - Transform
  - Divergent
  - Convergent
  - ▲ Active Volcanoes



**EXPLANATION**

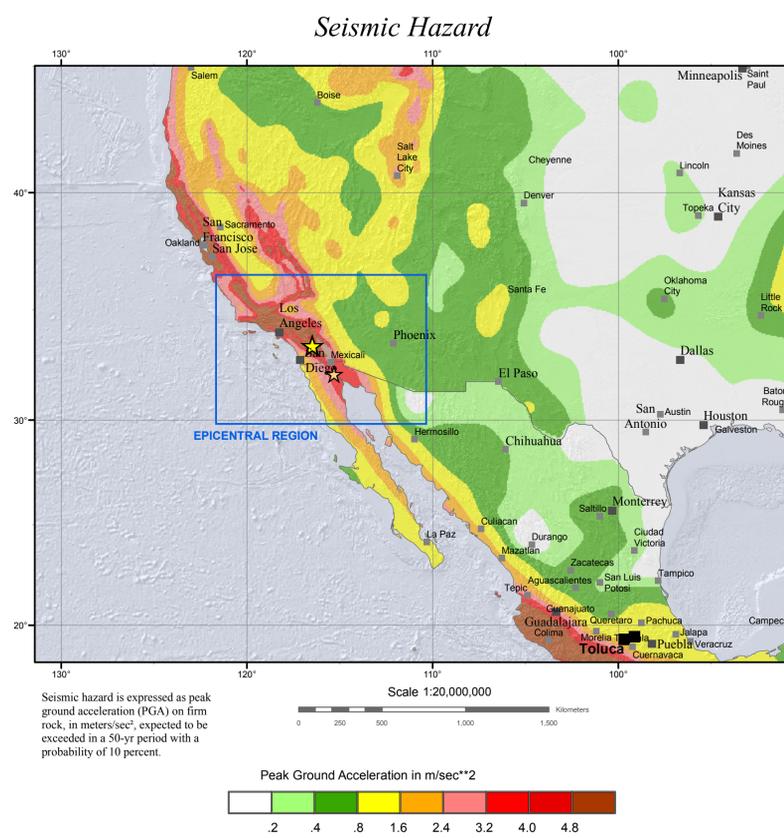
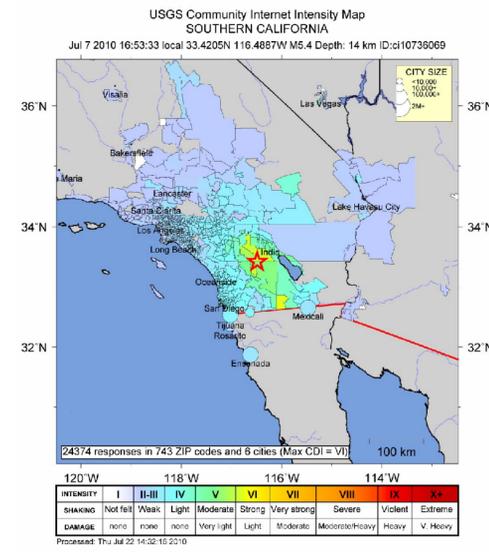
- ★ Main Shock
- ★ Baja, CA 20100404
- Earthquake Magnitude
  - 4.50 - 5.99
  - 6.00 - 6.99
  - 7.00 - 7.99
  - 8.00 - 8.99
  - 9.00 - 9.99
- Earthquake Depth
  - 0 - 69
  - 70 - 299
  - 300 - 700
- US Quaternary Faults
  - Age of Last Motion
    - <150
    - <15,000
    - <130,000
    - <750,000
    - <1,600,000

**Borrego Springs, CA**  
07 July 2010 23:53:33 UTC  
33.42° N, 116.48° W  
Depth 14 km  
Mw = 5.4 (USGS)

20 km (15 miles) NNW of Borrego Springs, California  
40 km (25 miles) SW of Indio, California  
45 km (30 miles) S of Palm Springs, California

**Baja, Mexico**  
04 April 2010 22:40:41 UTC  
3:40 pm Local Time  
32.128° N, 115.303° W  
Depth 10 km  
Mw = 7.2 (USGS)

26 km from Guadalupe Victoria, Baja California, 60 km from Mexicali, Baja California, and 62 km from San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico. Intensity VII in San Luis Rio Colorado and Mexicali, 2 people killed. Minor to moderate damage reported over a broad area of Baja Mexico, and in southern California towns near the border. Reports of some collapsed or significantly damaged structures in both Mexicali, Mexico and Calexico, California.



**TECTONIC SUMMARY**

A M5.4 earthquake occurred in southern California at 4:53 pm (Pacific Time) about 30 miles south of Palm Springs, 25 miles southwest of Indio, and 13 miles north-northwest of Borrego Springs. The earthquake occurred near the Coyote Creek segment of the San Jacinto fault, which is one of the strands of the San Jacinto fault. It was followed by more than 60 aftershocks of M1.3 and greater during the first hour. Seismologists expect continued aftershock activity.

In the last 50 years, there have been four other earthquakes in the magnitude 5 range within 20 km of this location: M5.8 1968, M5.3 on 2/25/1980, M5.0 on 10/31/2001, and M5.2 on 6/12/2005. The biggest earthquake near this location was a M6.0 Buck Ridge earthquake on 3/25/1937.

The earthquake was felt all over southern California, with strong shaking near the epicenter.

The San Jacinto fault, along with the Elsinore, San Andreas, and other faults, is part of the plate boundary that accommodates about 2 inches/year of motion as the Pacific plate moves northwest relative to the North American plate. The largest recent earthquake on the San Jacinto fault, near this location, the M6.5 1968 Borrego Mountain earthquake April 8, 1968, occurred about 25 miles southeast of the July 7 M5.4 earthquake.

This M5.4 earthquake follows the 4th of April 2010, Easter Sunday, Mw7.2 earthquake, located about 125 miles to the south, well south of the US Mexico international border. A M4.9 earthquake occurred in the same area on June 12th at 8:08 pm (Pacific Time). Thus this section of the San Jacinto fault remains active.

Seismologists are watching two major earthquake faults in southern California. The San Jacinto fault, the most active earthquake fault in southern California, extends for more than 100 miles from the international border into San Bernardino and Riverside, a major metropolitan area often called the Inland Empire. The Elsinore fault is more than 110 miles long, and extends into the Orange County and Los Angeles area as the Whittier fault. The Elsinore fault is capable of a major earthquake that would significantly affect the large metropolitan areas of southern California. The Elsinore fault has not hosted a major earthquake in more than 100 years. The occurrence of these earthquakes along the San Jacinto fault and continued aftershocks demonstrates that the earthquake activity in the region remains at an elevated level. The San Jacinto fault is known as the most active earthquake fault in southern California. Caltech and USGS seismologist continue to monitor the on going earthquake activity using the Caltech/USGS Southern California Seismic Network and a GPS network of more than 100 stations.

For additional information check, [www.scsn.org](http://www.scsn.org), and <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>

**Significant Earthquakes Mag >= 6.5**

Year	Mon	Day	Time	Lat	Long	Dep	Mag
1902	03	22	22:12	35.000	-120.000	0	6.8
1915	11	21	00:13	32.000	-115.000	0	7.1
1918	04	21	22:32	33.812	-117.440	15	6.8
1927	11	04	13:51	34.915	-121.031	15	7.1
1934	12	31	18:45	32.685	-115.761	15	7.1
1940	05	19	04:36	33.222	-115.697	15	6.9
1952	07	21	11:52	34.949	-119.046	10	7.3
1956	02	09	14:32	31.669	-116.099	10	6.8
1968	04	09	02:29	33.160	-116.192	15	7.0
1971	02	09	14:00	34.401	-118.392	6.4	6.7
1983	05	02	23:42	36.234	-120.304	10	6.5
1987	11	24	13:15	33.070	-115.952	1.9	6.5
1992	06	28	11:57	34.198	-116.515	15	7.3
1992	06	28	15:05	34.289	-116.817	12.4	6.5
1994	01	17	12:30	34.185	-118.563	19	6.7
1999	10	16	09:46	34.555	-116.436	15	7.2
2003	12	22	19:15	35.706	-121.102	7	6.6
2010	04	04	22:40	32.297	-115.278	4	7.2

**DISCLAIMER**

Base map data, such as place names and political boundaries, are the best available but may not be current or may contain inaccuracies and therefore should not be regarded as having official significance.

**USGS** **US AID**

**M 5.4, 13.2 mi NNW of Borrego Springs, CA**  
Origin Time: Wed 2010-07-07 23:53:33 UTC  
Location: 33.427N 116.49W Depth: 14 km

**Estimated Population Exposed to Earthquake Shaking**

ESTIMATED ACCUMULATED POPULATION EXPOSURE (E = 4.000)	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	Minimal	Minor	Minor	Light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy

**Population Exposure**

City	Population
La Quinta	288
Borrego Springs	34
Coachella	314
Palm Desert	486
Indian Wells	44
Rancho Mirage	174
Mexicali	5074
Riverside	2984
Chula Vista	2134
San Diego	1,2254
San Bernardino	2024

**Shaking Intensity**

Overall, the population in this region resides in structures that are vulnerable to earthquake shaking. Through some resistant structures exist. A magnitude 5.8 earthquake 155 km Northwest of this one struck Whittier, California on October 1, 1957 (UTC), with estimated population exposures of 20,000 at intensity VIII and 1,252,000 at intensity VII, resulting in a reported 8 fatalities. On January 17, 1994 (UTC), a magnitude 6.7 earthquake 209 km Northwest of this one struck Northridge, California, with estimated population exposures of 211,000 at intensity IX or greater and 1,968,000 at intensity VIII, resulting in a reported 50 fatalities. Recent earthquakes in this area have caused landslides and liquefaction that may have contributed to losses.

This information was automatically generated and has not been reviewed by a seismologist.  
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/pager> Event ID: ci10738069

**DATA SOURCES**

EARTHQUAKES AND SEISMIC HAZARD  
USGS, National Earthquake Information Center  
NOAA, National Geophysical Data Center  
IASPEI, Centennial Catalog (1900 - 1999) and extensions (Engdahl and Villasehor, 2002)  
HDR (unpublished earthquake catalog) (Engdahl, 2003)  
Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program

**PLATE TECTONICS AND FAULT MODEL**  
PRE2002 (Bird, 2003)  
Finite Fault Model, Chen Ji, UC Santa Barbara (2007)

**BASE MAP**  
NIMA and ESRI, Digital Chart of the World  
USGS, EROS Data Center  
NOAA GEBCO and GLOBE Elevation Models  
ESRI Online

**REFERENCES**

Bird, P., 2003. An updated digital model of plate boundaries: *Geochim. Geophys. Geosyst.*, v. 4, no. 3, pp. 1027-80.

Engdahl, E.R. and Villasehor, A., 2002. *Global Seismicity: 1900 - 1999*, chap. 41 of Lee, W.H.K., and others, eds., *International Earthquake and Engineering Seismology*, Part A: New York, N.Y., Elsevier Academic Press, 932 p.

Engdahl, E.R., Van der Hilst, R.D., and Buland, R.P., 1998. *Global teleseismic earthquake relocation with improved travel times and procedures for depth determination*: *Bull. Seism. Soc. Amer.*, v. 88, p. 722-743.

Map prepared by U.S. Geological Survey  
National Earthquake Information Center  
2 August 2010  
Map not approved for release by Director USGS