YEAR'S STRONGEST

Quake Kills 10 in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — An undersea earthquake stronger than any recorded this year rocked central and northern Japan Monday, killing 10 persons and injuring 99 others, the national police reported.

The quake originated off Japan's Pacific Coast and hit hardest at Miyagi Prefecture, about 100 miles north of Tokyo. It registered about 7.5 on the Richter scale at the epicenter, 5 on the Japanese scale of 7 at Sendai, 5.5 at Mashiko and 4 at Oga.

TOKYO (UPD) — One of the most powerful earthquakes to hit Japan since World War II shook crowded vacation areas of the Pacific coast yesterday, leaving at least 18 persons dead or missing.

The region, which is in the volcanic belt that runs from Mount Fuji into the Pacific, was crowded with thousands of tourists at the beginning of a three-day holiday weekend.

Hardest hit was Izu peninsula, where nine deaths were confirmed and nine persons reported missing in mishaps caused by the quake. Block roads cracked and private rail services were halted.

A bus carrying 38 tourists was struck by an 80-inch boulder in the Izu peninsula resort town of Hakone, killing three persons and injuring several.

One bus was buried in a landslide apparently triggered by the quake near Hakone and several passengers were missing.

The earthquake affected a 30-mile section of the coastline, collapsing all major roads and bridges. It also caused financial losses of several million dollars.

The quake ripped away a pond embankment west of Tokyo, killing one.

The most devastating quake since 1964 struck Fukui province off the Japan Sea coast in June 1968, leaving 5,188 persons dead or missing.
South Japan shaken up by 6.7 quake

TOKYO (UPD) — An earthquake shook wide areas of southwestern Japan today, disrupting rail service and temporarily cutting off power to an estimated 20,000 homes when a transformer failed in Miyazaki.

The tremor, recorded at 4:49 p.m., registered 6.7 on the Richter scale. It originated in the East China Sea near Yaku island in Kagoshima province.

National railway authorities said train service was halted or slowed down for several hours pending track checks.

There were no reports of casualties or property damage.

At about the same time, volcanic Mt. Sakurajima on the southern tip of the island of Kyushu erupted, sending a column of black smoke more than 6,000 feet into the air. It was not known whether the eruption was related to the quake.

The Meteorological Agency said tidal wave warnings were issued along the Pacific Coast of the island of Shikoku and Yamaguchi province on Honshu island. No tidal waves were reported and the warnings were lifted an hour later.

An offshore quake hurts 16 in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Police reported 16 persons injured, one seriously, when an offshore earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale struck central and northern Japan today.

Officials said according to preliminary reports, the quake damaged 10 houses, broke windows in some buildings, damaged roads in 33 places and set off small landslides at seven points.

The Meteorological Agency said the center of the quake was about 25 miles off the coast of Miyagi state and about 200 miles north of Tokyo. It occurred at midday and was followed by two lesser shocks less than half an hour later.

Feb. 20, 1978 — S.F. EXAMINER

Relief Units Rushed To Japan Quake Site

TOKYO (AP)—Eight thousand troops and policemen carried on relief operations Tuesday along Japan's northeast coast where a powerful earthquake killed 21 persons and injured nearly 500.

The quake destroyed several hundred houses, most of them in Sendai, 180 miles north of Tokyo, leaving nearly 2,000 persons homeless, police said. It hit at 5:14 p.m. Monday and registered 7.5 on the Richter scale.

Supermarkets and grocery stores in Sendai were jammed Tuesday by residents rushing to buy up instant and ready-cooked food because gas was still cut off in most of the area.

Trains, buses and auto traffic remained paralyzed in the quake region, with national highways closed at 15 places in Miyagi Prefecture (state). Rail lines were wrecked in 38 places, 21 bridges were destroyed or damaged, and one small fishing boat was sunk.

Five thermal power plants on the coast of Miyagi were shut down because of damage. The quake also caused more than 140 landslides and three fires in Miyagi.

Except for gas, 60 percent to 70 percent of the public utilities had been restored, officials said. However, 8,000 homes still were without water, and all schools were closed.

The epicenter of the quake was located beneath the Pacific about 80 miles off Sendai.

TEN PERSONS DIED when a cement wall collapsed in Sendai. Two were killed by falling telephone poles, one was crushed to death in a house under construction, and an elderly man hospitalized with high blood pressure died of shock.

Circumstances of the other deaths weren't available.

The red brick walls around 99-year-old Miyagi Prison in Sendai collapsed, but none of the prisoners was hurt and none escaped, the Justice Ministry said. It is Japan's oldest prison.

THE DENVER POST

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