Toll reaches 1,233 as quake survivors endure cold, snow

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — Battling frigid weather, rescue teams erected tents today and led tens of thousands of people left homeless by an earthquake that killed at least 1,233 people.

President Kenan Evren, after inspecting the disaster area, called for donations of money and supplies to help the survivors, many of whom were bivouacking in plastic tents and makeshift shelters to ward off the winter chill and snow.

"The destruction brought upon the region by the quake is greater than we thought at the beginning," Evren said. "We fear that loss of life and property will rise.

The powerful jolts that reached the eastern provinces of Erzurum and Kars Sunday also left at least 354 people seriously injured and destroyed 10,000 homes, leaving an estimated 75,000 people homeless.

Refugee workers continue to clear the rubble and villagers bury their dead.

Village Affairs Minister Mumin Guneysu, here to supervise the relief work, said some of the homeless would be settled in public buildings temporarily. He promised to erect temporary houses quickly.

The International Red Cross sent 13 tons of medical supplies, 20,175 blankets and 5,413 tents to Erzurum, officials said. A 37-car train filled with relief supplies left Ankara.

Saud Arabia has contributed $10 million, and contributions from individuals and in Turkey were expected to be above $1 million in the next few days, the officials said.

The problem to be tackled by relief officials was preservation of stray livestock whose owners were killed by the quake. Cattle and sheep-raising is the main source of income in the region.

L. P. I. P. I. Y. commander of Turkey's 9th Army Corps in the area and in charge of rescue operations led by military units, warned the people not to sell their livestock at deflated prices to 'opportunists sure to flock to the area.'

The quake was the worst to hit Turkey since 1974 when a major quake in the same region killed 3,837 people.

November 1, 1983 Houston Chronicle

30 Killed In Quake

PEKING (AP) — An earthquake destroyed several thousand houses and killed 30 people today in an area near the Chinese capital, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The quake hit the Shandong province about 40 miles northeast of Peking. It measured 5.9 on the Richter scale.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
Nov. 7, 1983

813 dead, thousands left homeless in violent Turkey earthquake

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — The death toll from Turkey's weekend earthquake rose above 1,200 Monday, after weather conditions hampered rescue efforts and threatened the lives of many among more than 20,000 people made homeless in the disaster.

Landslides triggered by the quake and snow storms, icy rains and gale-force winds left 40 mountain villages in the stricken area inaccessible to rescue workers. The weather also grounded some helicopter rescue flights.

Officials in the Erzurum, the capital of the province bearing the same name, said that by late Monday around 700 rescuers had recovered the bodies of 1,206 people killed by the five-second quake, which struck shortly after 7 a.m. Sunday.

At least 33 villages were destroyed and 11 others so badly damaged that "they can never be lived in again," one official put it.

Most of the dead were from the towns of Horasan, Nuranman and Sarikamis.

"EVERYTHING WENT MAD," said Midrash Ceylanoglu, a survivor from Horasan. "Everywhere started to shake terribly with a sound of explosion.

Rescue workers in the region, Turkey's poorest, feared as many as 1,500 people might still be buried in the rubble.

Switzerland flew in mountain rescue dogs to locate survivors buried in the snow-covered rubble. Offers of aid also came from the United States, Japan, West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Pakistan.

Officials said at least 20,000 people were left homeless after the quake toppled their mud and straw brick homes.

In a major rescue operation, 3,000 tents were airlifted from other regions of Turkey, and prefabricated buildings were being trucked in by hastily organized convoys.

Nonetheless, three or four families were being sheltered in tents designed for one household, rescue workers said. The onset of bitter winter cold was already threatening the lives of many survivors, they said.

"Erzurum is on a high plateau and at this time of year someone who cannot find shelter before nightfall will freeze to death before morning," the League of Red Crescent Society said in a Geneva appeal for money to buy tents, blankets and sleeping bags.

By late Monday, officials said 1,046 people had been treated for injuries at Erzurum hospitals.

But Dr. Suleyman Sirin of the State Hospital in Erzurum said the weather was keeping many of the injured away, who prefer to wait for treatment at home, "which causes an increase in the deaths.

CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE still a threat to the mercy of the quake. Many working-age adults already in the fields when the quake struck survived.

President Kenan Evren flew to the disaster area, 200 miles east of Ankara. He visited survivors hospitalized in Erzurum and later traveled to Nizip, where he heard the population for clinging to old-fashioned livelihoods.

"You cannot leave your traditions — you do not build strong homes — and because of this the death toll is high," he said.
Epidemics feared in quake-torn Turkey

ANCHORAGE Daily News
BY VICTOR SIMPSON
The Associated Press

ERZURUM, Turkey — Search dogs found 15 more bodies in earthquake-devastated eastern Turkey Tuesday, and the governor of Erzurum province said epidemics were feared because hundreds of corpses were still unburied.

The quake killed at least 1,232 people Sunday and left 78,000 homeless as it rolled through the provinces of Erzurum, Kars and in the Soviet border, officials said.

In Muratbagli village, the worst-hit settlement, there weren’t enough survivors to bury the dead. At least 465 died of a population of about 950.

Women placed planks over a mud-filled field beside a narrow dirt road that is Muratbagli’s only connection to the outside world.

On the planks lay the bodies of 33 women and children awaiting the arrival of an imam, a Moslem prayer leader, and for more manpower to dig fresh graves on a hillside plot.

Most of the dead in Muratbagli were women and children. When the quake struck at 7:12 a.m., the men were already in the fields tending their animals or at morning prayer in the village mosque.

A 50-year-old man, limping and with his hand bandaged, walked back to the village. “Please give them back,” his wife said from the body of their children and two sons aged six and seven.

A few yards away a young woman, wearing a white covering over her head, clutched to her bosom framed pictures of her two daughters, aged five and 12, both killed. She stared at the pictures and then hugged them.

A Swiss disaster relief team with specially trained dogs searched through the ruins but only came up with more bodies.

“The dogs found 15 bodies,” one said a team member, Jean Pierre Racle.

A Turkish colonial directing rescue operations said probably even more were buried under the rubble and that the search would continue.

Army relief units moved in cranes and heavy earth-moving machinery over the main highway to Iran on the way to isolated villages miles down winding dirt roads.

The cumulative toll climbed to 1,332 Tuesday, with 404 bodies still missing.

The death toll, however, was expected to rise sharply as rescue teams reached villages that hadn’t been reached.

The earthquake reportedly killed 44 villagers in eastern starts, 850 in Kars and 26 in the Soviet border.

The death toll was expected to rise as rescue workers reached isolated villages.

The earthquake was felt in eastern Turkey, where a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck on April 16.

The death toll climbed to 1,332 Tuesday, with 404 bodies still missing.

The cumulative toll climbed to 1,332 Tuesday, with 404 bodies still missing.

The earthquake reportedly killed 44 villagers in eastern Turkey, 850 in Kars and 26 in the Soviet border.

The death toll was expected to rise as rescue workers reached isolated villages.

The earthquake was felt in eastern Turkey, where a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck on April 16.