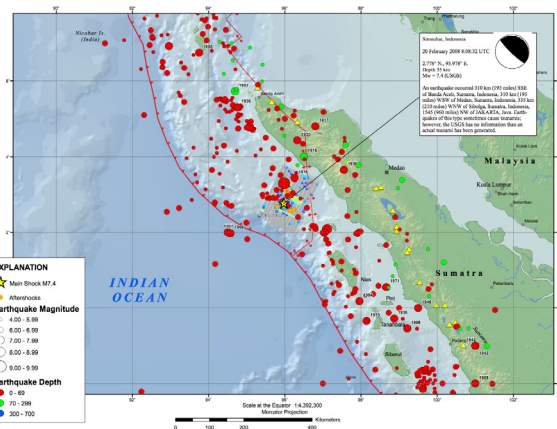


Learning from Earthquakes

February 20 Simeulue, Indonesia, Earthquake

A large earthquake struck the island of Simeulue, Indonesia, at 3:08 PM local time, killing three people and seriously injuring 25 others. The earthquake occurred at 2.778° N., 95.978° E., at a depth 35 km, and with a moment magnitude of 7.4 (USGS). The earthquake occurred at the south end of the rupture zone of the great magnitude 9.1 earthquake of December 26, 2004, and at the north end of the rupture zone of the magnitude 8.6 Nias Island earthquake of March 28, 2005, where the 2004 and 2005 rupture zones meet. Since 2000, much of the Sunda trench between the northern Andaman Islands to Eggano Island, a distance of more than 2,000 km, has ruptured in a series of large subduction zone earthquakes. The island had survived the 2004 earthquake without much damage.

Although this type of earthquake can cause tsunami, there is no information that one was generated by this event. The USGS has created a poster for this earthquake at: <ftp://hazards.cr.usgs.gov/maps/sigeqs/20080220/20080220.pdf>.



Epicentral location of Simeulue event.