Earthquake Report: Magnitude 4.7 Earthquake West Reno Area

A Magnitude 4.7 earthquake occurred near Mogul, Nevada, in the west Reno area at 11:38 PM PDT Friday April 25, 2008. The earthquake was strongly felt in west Reno and felt throughout the Reno metropolitan area. There are reports of damage but at this time we have no details or additional information. The preliminary event location determined by the Nevada Seismological Laboratory (NSL) and reported to the U.S. Geological Survey is - Latitude: 39.5197N; Longitude: 119.9303W; Depth 1.4 km (0.9 miles). This evening’s Magnitude 4.7 earthquake was immediately preceded by a Magnitude 3.3 foreshock and has been followed by numerous aftershocks, the largest of which has a preliminary Magnitude of 3.6. Many aftershocks are being felt by the residents of Mogul and Somersett in west Reno.

Following an earthquake of this size there is a small increase in the probability of a larger magnitude earthquake in the west Reno area. Citizens should also be aware of the possibility of strong aftershocks from this evening’s Magnitude 4.7. Mogul-Somersett residents should expect to feel aftershocks of this earthquake for some time. It cannot be determined if this evening’s Magnitude 4.7 earthquake will be the largest earthquake of the 2008 Mogul-Somersett earthquake sequence.

The occurrence of additional large earthquakes in the Mogul-Somersett area cannot be predicted or forecast. Nevada citizens are urged to always be prepared for strong ground shaking from earthquakes at anytime; Nevada is the third most active state for earthquake activity in the United States and large earthquakes may occur anywhere in the State. For information on earthquake preparedness visit the Nevada Seismological web site at http://www.seismo.unr.edu.

Additional links for earthquake preparedness information:


The data reported here has been reviewed. For more information, contact the Nevada Seismological Laboratory, (775) 784-4975. The Nevada Seismological Laboratory continues to monitor the earthquakes activity in the Mogul-Somerset area using a number of portable seismographs deployed at local residences.

The Nevada Seismological Laboratory is the lead agency for monitoring earthquakes in the western Great Basin, and part of the nationwide monitoring program with primary support from the U.S. Geological Survey.

Figure 1. Earthquakes of the 2008 Mogul-Somerset Sequence